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U of A developed "Stealth" technology revolutionizes chemotherapy delivery

New cancer treatment approved in Canada

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

A breakthrough cancer treatment, developed by U of A researcher Dr. Theresa Allen, has been approved by Health Canada.

The treatment is based on "Stealth" technology, a method of delivering a chemotherapy that significantly improves the effectiveness of the anti-cancer drug doxorubicin, decreases its toxicity and reduces its side effects. "It's a new way of administering an old drug," said Allen.

Caelyx, the brand name for liposomal doxorubicin, is a new therapy for Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), a cancer found more commonly in people living with AIDS. Unlike other cancer therapies, Caelyx uses specially designed liposomes, or tiny membranes, to hold doxorubicin.

Like the military Stealth airplanes that avoid radar detection in the air, these liposomes avoid the body's natural defense system against foreign objects. They do so by disguising themselves as water. The liposomes only break down when they've reached their target: a tumor and its leaky, new blood vessels. As a result, the debilitating side effects associated with other chemotherapies are reduced, while the effectiveness of the drug is increased.

"The Stealth technology allows the treatment to stay in circulation for a longer period of time, increasing its chances of entering the tumor," said Allen, a professor in the U of A's Department of Pharmacology. "The small parti-



Dr. Theresa Allen, inventor of the Stealth technology used for treatment of AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma.

cle size and special coating enables the product to pass through sieve-like tumor blood vessels—but not healthy non-leaky normal blood vessels—and results in accumulation of drug in the tumor."

Allen says the Stealth technology was developed by investigating how red blood cells worked in the body. "They're similar to liposomes except they're much larger and contain hemoglobins. And they circulate for days." She and her re-

search team started looking at the surfaces of red blood cells and other cells that circulated freely in the body. They discovered that a surface that looked more like water circulated well. "It made sense. We're 98 per cent water."

This is another way of looking at things in the fight against cancer, said Allen. "Most people think, 'Oh, we have to discover a new drug.' We decided to take an existing anti-cancer drug and find

a new way of delivering it."

The implications for the Stealth technology are far-reaching, said Allen. A number of other anti-cancer drugs are being investigated for this method. And it can also be used in gene therapy.

Doxorubicin was selected "because it's a very popular drug being used to treat a number of solid tumors like Kaposi's sarcoma and its chemical properties suited it to be efficiently trapped in a liposome."

KS is a cancer found in the skin or tissue under the mucous membranes lining the mouth, nose or eye. It can also spread to the liver, gastrointestinal tract and lymph nodes. People suffering from KS often develop disfiguring blotches or tumors on the skin or inside the mouth.

Clinical trials of 753 patients with AIDS-related KS involving Caelyx resulted in up to 65 per cent partial remission and 25 per cent disease stabilization. In addition, 48 per cent of patients experienced lesion flattening, 56 per cent had an improvement in lesion color and 45 per cent felt a reduction in pain.

Allen said researchers working on clinical trials at the Cross Cancer Institute with breast and ovarian cancer patients say they've seen promising results.

In Canada, Caelyx is marketed by Shering Canada Inc., based in Pointe-Claire, Que. The Stealth liposomal doxorubicin has been in use in the U.S. since 1995, under the brand name Doxil. ■

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The Edmonton Journal

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Enrolment jumped sharply before registration deadline

Student numbers top 30,000 for second time this decade

By Geoff McMaster

How quickly things change. Contrary to what we reported in the last issue of *Folio*, enrolment at the U of A is in fact up by two per cent, says Associate Registrar Paul Pearlstone. By registration deadline last Friday, we had 590 more students than last year at this time, he says.

Two weeks ago, preliminary numbers showed a drop of almost one per cent, or 300 students. With the last-minute rush to register, however, total enrolment shot up to 30,123, only the second time this decade it's hit the 30,000 mark.

"We're actually scratching our heads about that, but to go from a negative situation to a positive situation is really quite remarkable," says U of A Associate Vice President and Registrar Brian Silzer. There are 7,568 new students on campus this year, up from 6,000 last year, for a substantial increase of 7.9 per cent. There were sharp increases in some professional faculties, especially engineering and nursing which went up by 10 and 17 per cent respectively, says Pearlstone.

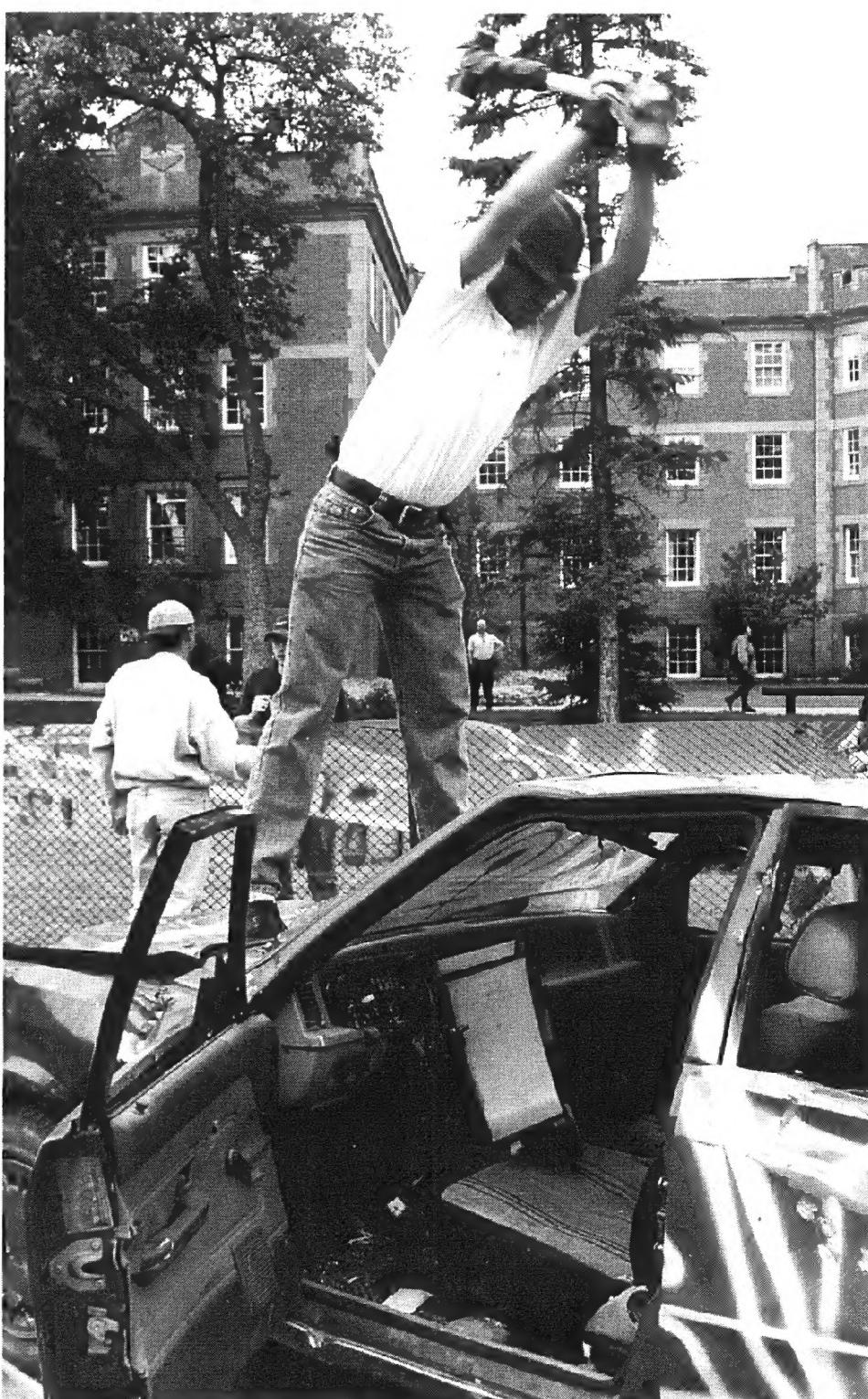
The nursing figure was perhaps the biggest surprise, he says, since the trend over the past few years had been a steady decrease. According to nursing spokesperson Laurie Hanasyk, recent media reports forecasting a shortfall of nurses by the year 2011 may have inspired the rise.

Native studies is showing an increase of 20 per cent, up to 208 from 170 last year. "I think that's very healthy—we're starting to see a critical mass in that program," says Pearlstone. Faculté Saint-Jean also has more students than last year.

Enrolment in arts and education is down slightly, by about 90 and 70 respectively. Business is also showing a slight decrease.

Silzer says the rise in newcomers may be explained by a growing pool of eligible high-school graduates and to the provin-

cial government's Access Fund, which has enabled some faculties to accommodate more students, mainly in science and engineering. He also said media has helped to promote the value of a university education. ■



Delta Upsilon pledge Darren Swerid unleashes his aggressions on an old car to raise money for the Sexual Assault Centre.

folio

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EDUCATION

No "slush fund" at the U of A

Board hears \$51 million surplus is not in cash

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Glen Harris, vice-president finance and administration, laid out all the questions: Did we really have a \$51 million surplus last year? Do we have untapped resources? What about higher discretionary spending?

No to all three. Here's why:

The \$51 million excess of revenue over expense is due largely to an increase in investment performance, basically the pension fund, which is a non-cash item. This accounts for \$24 million, with \$27 million representing the increased value of the U of A's net assets. The operating surplus amounts to slightly more than one million in cash terms.

The \$37 million in cash reserves has three elements:

- \$6.5 million is operating reserve to protect against variances in the budget and prevent mid-year budget cuts. Currently, this reserve stands at \$4.4 million with \$2.1 million in individual faculties and departments as operating money, or "flex money," said Harris.
- \$10 million lies in ancillary reserves for things like future capital improvements.
- the remaining \$20 million lies in individual faculties. "It's the aggregate income earned at the local level," said Harris. This fluctuates from year to year and is the largest single source of cash reserves. U of A policy dictates it is under the control of individual units.

As for discretionary spending, there is no flexibility. The \$61 million for total capital acquisitions last year includes matching requirements of the envelope funding. "We do not have the discretion to reduce that amount," Harris said. Furthermore, the \$113.8 million in cash and short-term investments in the financial statements is largely directed towards paying off current liabilities, like accounts payables, staff benefit liabilities and deferred contributions. Current liabilities are obligations that need to be met with cash and short-term investments in the year, according to Martin Coutts, director of financial services. The other big item, deferred contributions, is grant money received from governments or private industry with restricted purposes. ■

One big happy family

Campus Alberta looks at a seamless post-secondary system

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

With more and more talk of a "Campus Alberta," Dr. Doug Owram, vice-president academic and provost, reassured board members Sept. 4, 1998 that "the ministerial concept is still a concept." That's because there are concerns arising already about a "homogenized" system, academic standards and the impact of KPIs.

While Owram said the government is unclear whether to maintain a competitive or cooperative post-secondary system, "I think the government shift now is more into cooperation."

The U of A, meanwhile, has placed itself firmly in the driver's seat to define what the concept should be. It broadens, said Owram, the institutional initiatives between U of A and U of C to avoid offer-

ing similar programs, "like the oil and gas (engineering) problems a few years ago."

As a result, Campus Alberta would strengthen existing transfer programs and perhaps use a common student number to ease transfers between institutions, Owram said. It would "ensure we're not undercutting each other and create a bad image for both institutions." He used the engineering example—where faculties avoided duplication in program offerings—as something that should be applied to other faculties, like business.

Campus Alberta means re-examining the Access program and looking at costs per student. "The government has recognized the money it gave to us under the old Access fund per student was inadequate...roughly \$4,000-5,000 per stu-

dent. The numbers are now higher," said Owram. The U of A can't take more engineering students without the faculty and space to accommodate them. "We have to make sure we're building a program rationally."

At the same time, said Owram, institutions will keep their individual identities. And as for academic standards, the U of A still has the upper hand over incoming transfer students "because we have the ability to cancel transfers and because U of A degrees are sought after." Grades are monitored and problems are addressed quickly with the college involved. As for the punitive impact of KPIs, "the minister in particular has said this is a flawed system and it will change," Owram said. ■

Whose drum are you marching to?

Participants at the Second International Conference on DNA Sampling, hosted last week by the University of Alberta's Health Law Institute, discussed the new pressures researchers face as commerce enters the lab.

By Lee Elliott and Richard Cairney

In the emerging knowledge-based economy, those with knowledge—university researchers—are becoming everybody's new best friend.

Dr. Eric Campbell, Harvard Medical School, says his surveys show that in the life sciences alone, 92 per cent of businesses have ties with a university.

"Based on amounts of funding the faculty reported, we estimated that the total industry investment in academia was about \$1.5 billion, representing 12 per cent of all external research and development funding in academic institutions," he says.

There's even more pressure in Canada to form university/industry partnerships, says Dr. Michael Hayden, director of the Centre for Molecular Medicine & Therapies, UBC. He blames "the abysmal support of the federal government."

Per capita, the Canadian government spends eight dollars for medical research, compared to \$66 in the U.S. "The setting in Canada is one where investigators have intense deprivation with regard to federal support and these pressures have led to all kinds of new relationships, some of them healthy, some of them not healthy," he says.

The case at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children is "a cogent lesson for many of us in research in Canada," he says. In that case, researcher Nancy Olivieri defied the drug company funding her research and published negative drug trial results "at the expense, both of the support of the

institution, the university, and the company itself."

But companies aren't the only ones putting pressure on researchers. University presidents and hospital administrators are looking to research "to raise money to fill the coffers for universities in a way that has not been seen before," says Hayden.

Dr. Douglas Kinsella, a member of the U of C's office of bioethics, says that in the past, research was conducted for science, the patient, self and institution. But things have changed. "With the intrusion of commerce, patents and royalties, new loyalties and new configurations have entered into the system."

INDUSTRY DOLLARS ENHANCE PERFORMANCE...TO A POINT

So what do these new configurations mean? Critics worry faculty members are diverted from traditional duties, that grad students are being lured from more noble work and that secrecy abounds.

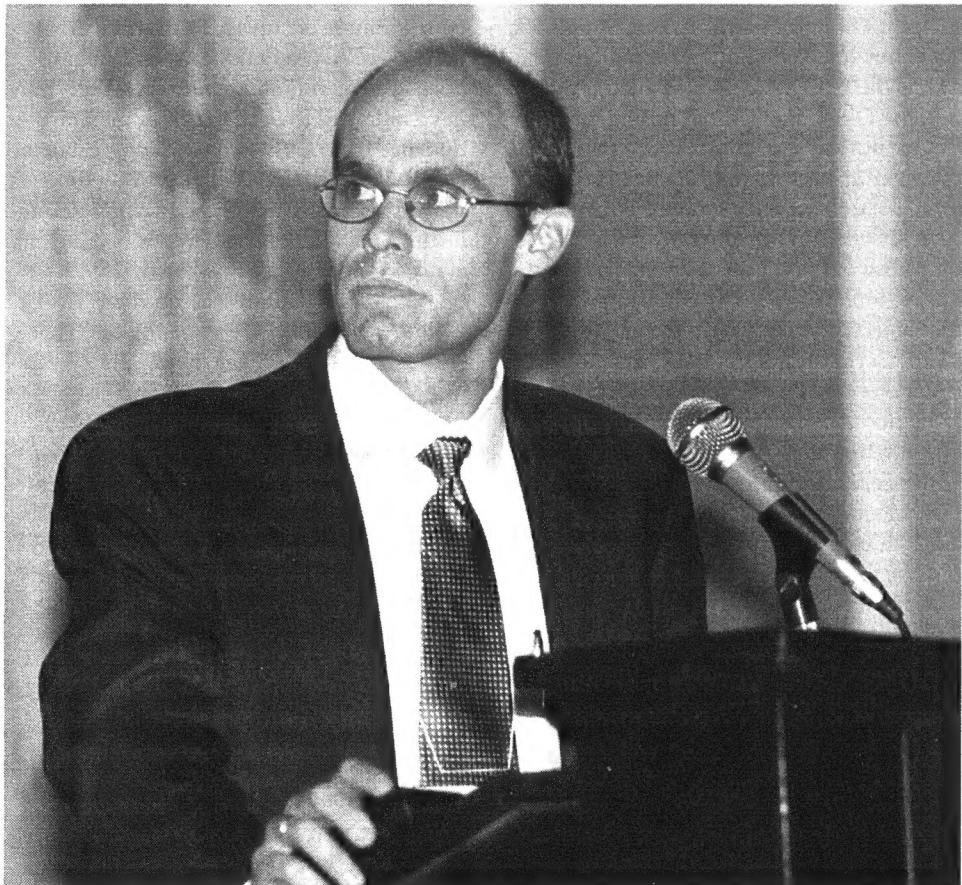
But it's all speculation. What little is known about the impact of academic/industrial partnerships comes, in part, from the research of Campbell and his associates. They found that faculty members with industry funding were significantly *more* productive than those without. They published more, taught slightly more, served as chairs, journal editors and committee members more. They also reported more commercial outcomes. "The differences here were quite dramatic," he says.

There does seem to be a red line to this progress, however. Productivity and commercialization drop off dramatically once industrial funding reaches about 66 per cent.

SECRECY ON THE RISE AND DIRECTION OF RESEARCH SHIFTING

Campbell also found that faculty involved in commercial ventures are more likely to keep secrets. "[They] were three times more likely to delay their research results by more than six months...And they were also about three times more likely to report that they had denied other faculty access to their research results after those results were published," he says.

While some secrecy is needed to protect



patents, excessive secrecy, "denies other faculty the ability to extend and reproduce the results...and ultimately slows down the progress of science," says Campbell. "It also denies the public the benefit they rightly deserve from having funded many of these studies in part or whole."

In addition, industry funding has an effect on the direction of the research. Campbell found 35 per cent of faculty with industry funding reported they had shifted the direction of their research, compared to 14 per cent of researchers without industry funding.*

CONFFLICT OF INTEREST

The opportunity for individual financial gains for researchers brings up a whole new ethical issue. Dr. L.S. Rothenberg, with the UCLA Department of Medicine's Division of Medical Genetics, says he and a colleague conducted a study of 1,105 university authors from Massachusetts institutions, whose 789 articles, published in 1992, appeared in 14 scientific and medical journals.

"We found that 34 per cent of the articles had at least one author who met our criteria for having a financial interest," says Rothenberg. These interests included being the inventor of a patented discovery, being a member of a sponsor's scientific advisory board, a corporate officer or having an equity interest in a company which

might benefit from work being done by the research team.

Rothenberg says he's met resistance to his research, by investigators "who are shocked—and I say that in the *Casablanca* movie sense—that anyone would think that their motives would be anything but as pure as the driven snow."

In the end, most agreed that university/industrial partnerships are on the rise and are often mutually beneficial. But real dangers exist, dangers that need to be addressed through clear policy. A job that falls squarely on the shoulders of universities, not industry, says Campbell.

"These relationships are possible," says Hayden. "[But] I think it's broken in Canada. We need a process to repair that system," to carefully look at partnerships that work and those that fail and to recommit to integrity in research.

The key, he says, is mutually beneficial partnerships that are *science* driven. "Science driven means the purpose of the study is to find out the truth." ■

*Campbell says his findings point to the need to look at research projects on a case by case basis. He says participants in the surveys may have under-reported socially unacceptable behavior, like withholding results, and over-reported socially acceptable behavior like commercial spinoffs. The increased productivity of the researchers surveyed could also indicate that industry just chooses top researchers.



Dr. Michael Hayden

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Sex, lies and politics as usual

By Dr. Judith Garber, political science

Not since the Persian Gulf War has my popularity with the news media been so high. Though I teach American politics, I was never asked about such major matters as the NAFTA debate, the Los Angeles riot, the Oklahoma City bombing, or the Helms-Burton legislation. Since January, however, my views on the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky saga have frequently been solicited by the media.

Many of the questions posed to me during interviews about Monicagate have been variations on: "Why is this important?" Certainly, this is more than an endless melodrama; it has potential historical influence and immediate political consequences. In many ways, however, its importance lies in the fact that it captures the essence of American politics at the end of the 20th century.

The Clinton-Lewinsky affair, itself banal in its details, has drawn reactions that are themselves quite ordinary, in the context of U.S. politics. These include: moral grandstanding from all corners; bald hypocrisy on the part of politicians who could themselves be, or already have been, caught in *flagrante delicto*; sniping between feminists and conservatives over whose sexual harassment "counts," and whose doesn't; the media's scrutiny of the personality of a public official; and the elevation of this matter above flooding in Bangladesh, crises in Russia, and other serious domestic and international issues.

The partisan dynamic of the situation reflects the patterns of recent American politics. Republicans are more politically astute and ruthless—here (with the generous assistance of independent counsel

Kenneth Starr), they cannily bided their time, moving in only when Clinton's inevitable stumble occurred. Democrats are more weak-willed and terrified of being portrayed as morally bankrupt—here, they have fallen all over themselves to gain distance from Clinton as the congressional elections loom. (Ironically, Clinton displayed very similar behavior when Republicans attacked the character of his judicial and executive appointments.)

The racial politics surrounding Clinton's situation are also familiar. There is tremendous overall support by African-Americans for Clinton, compared with overall white support. Some of this can be chalked up to partisanship (African-Americans are heavily Democratic) and to Clinton's relatively sympathetic approach to racial issues. Interestingly, African-Americans also seem to empathize with a man they feel is being persecuted (hence African-American comedian Chris Rock's joke that "Bill Clinton is the first Black president.") Thus, the racial gap in political attitudes in the United States that is presumed to operate only where African-American public figures, such as O.J. Simpson, are concerned, is also at work here.

persecuted (hence African-American comedian Chris Rock's joke that "Bill Clinton is the first Black president.") Thus, the racial gap in political attitudes in the United States that is presumed to operate only where African-American public figures, such as O.J. Simpson, are concerned, is also at work here.

The gender gap in American politics is also evident. The disparity in male and female attitudes toward Clinton mirrors general voting patterns. Most men, particularly white men, have never liked Bill (or Hillary) Clinton, have not voted for him, and have not supported him through this scandal. Women, including otherwise Republican women, were instrumental to Clinton's presidential victories. They have been more forgiving of him throughout Monicagate, despite a decline in white female support for Clinton. Partisan and policy differences between men and women are clearly underlying the different levels of support for Clinton; however, American women as a whole can also be seen as mirroring Hillary Clinton's own forgiveness of her husband's transgressions.

Public opinion has been steadfast, even in the face of sensationalistic, wall-to-wall media coverage and growing evidence of Clinton's wrongdoing, although public sentiment against resignation or impeachment may shift after people see the videotape of his grand jury testimony. This sturdy public support (if not respect) for Clinton reflects an enduring fact about American politics—Americans' feelings about the country's economy are a great leveler of presidents. As George Bush learned in 1992, even astronomical approval ratings following a war are vulnerable to economic discontent. Likewise, discontent with Clinton's personal behavior, including public lying, may simply not outweigh the effect of his enjoying a strong economy throughout his presidency.

This is not to say that there is nothing new about all this. For one thing, the pivotal role of the Internet in breaking and fuelling the story of Clinton-Lewinsky affair, as well as disseminating the Starr report, has not been seen before. This means not only a greater level of saturation of information about things like the Clinton scandal, but a serious challenge to the authority of the "legitimate" media to shape news.

Second, the apparent majority belief among Americans that adult sexual conduct (at least between a man and woman) is a private matter suggests a disgust with media intrusiveness into the lives of public officials, as well as a repudiation of the notion that men's attitudes towards women are legitimate public issues.

Third, Congress may be poised to invent a kind of vote of no confidence for the American system, as in parliamentary systems. If the impeachment/conviction process were expanded to cover not just corrupt or illegal *presidential* actions, but also tawdry *personal* actions and *political* dissatisfaction, this would change the basic character of American politics. Congressional will and partisan motives would evacuate much of the power of the presidency.

Finally, there is a remote possibility—hope springs eternal—that the excesses and unpopularity of Starr's investigation will finally scare both Democrats and Republicans into just saying no to taxpayer-funded examinations, virtually unlimited by the rule of law, into every failure of every president, cabinet member, or advisor. This would, indeed, be the most important outcome of the Clinton saga.

UN report misses the dark side of life for Canadian women

By Dr. Philomena Okeke, women's studies

Once again, Canada has received a glowing report card from the United Nations on the general well-being of her populace, particularly her treatment of the women-folk. This record is hardly surprising to those who have been perusing the UNDP's* report over the past five years.

One does not have to go too far to identify the reasons this country tops the list in this global assessment of women's quality of life. On the international scene, Canada has championed women's causes in the less privileged regions of Latin America and Africa. Canadian aid has made it possible for many women to access basic health facilities, income generating projects, literacy and vocational education programs, and even higher education—at home and abroad. Many such women have gone on to assume high positions in government and industry.

Canadian women, themselves, have been pulling their weight on the international scene. Indeed, their voices, boosted in various forums by Canada's appointed representatives, are evidence to the outside world that this support is to some extent home grown. On the home front, Canada has maintained a fairly commendable record among other industrialized nations on women's representation in education, paid work, and politics. I guess the

UNDP report presents one more opportunity for our politicians to pat one another on the back. (What are these women complaining about? They're in heaven, compared to other women!)

But for me, the UNDP report poses a disturbing question. How many Canadian women identify with the image of female experience sold to outside world? Statistics Canada's annual report on poverty shows that women are not only the majority of our country's poor, but that women (far more than men) are increasingly joining their ranks. On the average, women not only suffer a reduction in quality of life upon divorce, but those who stay married are likely to outlive their husbands—facing the prospect of retirement unprovided for and at the mercy of the state. The situation of native and immigrant women presents an even graver picture. The former have not only shared experiences of oppression with other social groups but have suffered various forms of selective discrimination. The shameful evidence stares us in the face, in our schools, workplaces, parliament and most of all, the squalid conditions on native reserves.

Similarly, immigrant women upon arrival in Canada must start life again, since they are expected to furnish authorities with "Canadian recognized creden-

tials" and "Canadian experience" before even entering the labor market (how can you have it if you just arrived?). Those who cannot speak English or French must postpone their sojourn a few years, in search of "English as a Second Language" (ESL or FSL). We all know the term "immigrant" does not refer to those of Caucasian origin from White America and the British Isles. We know them even when they are hidden behind other labels such as "women of color" (those excluded are colorless!), and "visible minority" women (unlike others, you can spot them from a mile!). They occupy the bottom rungs of Canada's labor force, well behind the larger female collective. Immigrant women suffer significant income disadvantage relative to men and women—both Canadian and foreign born who are not racial minorities. The salary gap between visible minority women and all other women remained the same between 1986 and 1996. Immigrant women are often ghettoized in occupations Canadians do not want (cleaners, workers in old people's home, nannies etc.). Hence it comes as a surprise to many that a significant number of these women have high educational credentials compared to their Canadian counterparts.

Black women are at the very bottom rung of this group. The gap in wages re-

main the widest for them—even after factors such as Canadian credentials and experience have been accounted for. For instance, Canadian-educated immigrants from the Caribbean earn 27 per cent less than other immigrants, while Canadian-educated immigrants from India earn 21 per cent less. Even among the cluster of jobs "Canadians do not want," black women are often restricted to those that keep them out of view such as laundry workers and parking attendants in hotel basements. Some of these women are simply too visible to work at shop fronts. Those with accents are further disadvantaged.

So when the international community gives Canada a glowing report, people like me have mixed feelings. On one hand, I cannot hide feelings of belonging and pride. On the other hand, I worry that the ugly picture the outside world does not see may be pushed further away from the public conscience. The UNDP report card cannot wipe out the concerns of Canadian women, especially those who are native, immigrant, black and poor women of every stripe, who constitute part of the Fourth World colony in the so called First World. ■

* United Nations Development Program

Having information not the same as knowing

Information technology and learning in post-secondary education

By Dr. Bev Mitchell, biological sciences

The current emphasis on the role that digital technology should play in the delivery of university courses has the potential to lead us into sloppy thinking regarding the nature of advanced study. The tendency to confuse fundamental improvements in access to information and in the clarity of presentations with significant change in the learning process underlies much of the unease many educators feel when confronted with the current hype regarding technology and teaching.

There is a belief in the air that access to masses of information on a subject you know little about will somehow make you knowledgeable, or even an expert. Worse, some seem to think that if the information is at your fingertips (a euphemism for "it's stored in a computer somewhere"), you don't need to have it in your head. For some information, such as telephone numbers and the day's ticker tape, this is true; however, you would not want me working

on your car even if I had on my hard drive every car maintenance manual ever written. For subjects that lean more to academic study than technical expertise, the situation is even worse. Information on a hard drive is in the same intellectual state as information stored on the shelves of a library—it's dead. Interestingly, societies never did develop the idea that because they had great libraries based on paper, people only had to look things up to be knowledgeable about a subject. Our new 'instant access' to information does not mean that the nature of learning has changed. Information is only useful when it resides in a prepared mind. Fertile ground for the seeds of information to grow into knowledge is found there; mental constructs within which to place newly acquired information are there; various bits of knowledge can rub together in the mind and from there emerge entirely new ideas. This emergent property of knowl-

edge stored in a human mind is wholly other than what happens to information stored in a computer or on a library shelf—which is exactly nothing.

We are confused about the role of technology in post-secondary education because we are confused about the nature of learning, because we don't adequately distinguish information from knowledge and because we do not properly assign responsibilities for learning. For adult (i.e. post-secondary) learners, it is the individual doing the learning who is primarily responsible for learning. Despite all the important developments in information transfer that will come from the new technologies, we will continue to make most progress in enhancing learning by working at the human level. Real progress will begin with a renewed realization that the learner has primary responsibility for his or her learning with teachers, mentors, tutors, and their electronic productions

available to help and guide. After all, consider what good learners have accomplished through the centuries without advanced technology.

For higher education, the revolutionary aspects of the new technologies will be primarily confined to information retrieval and communication. To be truly useful, these advances in information logistics will require prepared minds. Preparing minds continues to be a noble challenge and pursuit, but teachers and students must not let popular opinion fool them into thinking that improved access to information means significantly less intellectual work for the learner. While teachers do their best to point the way and even motivate, students must still be willing to expend considerable effort to master any subject. New technologies will be very useful for both teacher and learner, but they will not revolutionize the learning process, because learning is a matter of the mind. ■

Austrian centre opens doors to Central Europe

New partnership will explore both culture and commerce

By Lee Elliott

For the opening of the first Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies (CCAES), Air Canada's pilot strike turned travel from Vienna to Edmonton into an odyssey involving unplanned stops at U.S. airports, lost luggage, a dash from Calgary in a rental car, and last minute alterations with the hotel sewing kit on a hastily purchased suit.

University of Vienna professors apologized for showing up in their travel clothes, and the Austrian deputy minister kept the outside sleeve label on his new suit—because the airline insisted on having it back when he was done. But decorum returned as the Austrian guests settled into Convocation Hall to be welcomed with the music of their favorite son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

From there, the morning's celebration reflected the purpose of the centre itself—a melding of art, language and culture with immediate social concerns like science, technology and public policy.

Dr. Casper Einem, Austrian minister of science and technology and president of the European Council of Science and Technology, says centres like the CCAES are necessary links between researchers, scientists and the communities they serve. "This is more than just public relations," he said. "It addresses the permanent preparedness of the scientific community to be aware of its social responsibility and to conduct itself in light of its societal responsibilities."

The need to create these links transcends national interests, he said. In fact, the European Union has adopted a problem-oriented approach to solving social problems with research and technology and has made it the EU's second largest budget item. In this framework, "research is not carried out or promoted as a purpose in itself," he said. "...It is more and more a question of freeing the production of knowledge from the traditional disciplines and institutions and pursuing it in other contexts as well."

"The fact that the universities are no longer the central pioneers of cutting-edge research, and that commissioned research plays an increasingly important role, not only leads to increased competitive pressure, it also results in a certain degree of market orientation on the part of the scientific system."

With global markets, progress depends on cooperation between disciplines, universities and nations, he said. Understanding a foreign culture's language and history is an important first step in achieving that goal. "The concept of cooperation should be more than a mere slogan or an empty phrase," he said. "Just as research and scientific work can now only be carried out meaningfully (and financed) in an international context, cooperation between individuals and groups plays an increasingly important role."

While at the U of A, Einem had a private meeting with Ronald Duhamel, Canadian secretary of state for science, research and development, to discuss public policy dealing with research and technology. ■

AMBITIOUS YEAR FOR CCAES

The Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies has planned an ambitious first year, which will include:

- The Arik Brauer art exhibit, *Cycle of Graphic Works on the International Declaration of Human Rights*, showing in the Humanities Centre, sixth floor conference room.
- A guest lecture in early October by Professor Hilde Haider-Pregler, a leading member of the Commission for Theatre History of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (in conjunction with Germanic studies).
- A guest lecture by the centre's director, Dr. Frank Szabo on Beethoven, Vienna and the Austrian enlightenment, to introduce the music department's concert of Beethoven cello Sonatas, Oct. 17.
- A lecture and round table discussion on small states and foreign policies in an era of globalization, held in conjunction with the Department of Political Science. The director of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs will attend along with the Austrian ambassador.
- Nov. 20, the centre will co-host an international symposium in Calgary where CEOs will meet senior ministers from Central European countries to become acquainted with business opportunities that emerge as these countries join the EU.
- Jan. 13, pianist Anton Kuerki will present a recital of the music of Czerny to kick off the fundraising campaign for a Czerny festival proposed for the year 2000.
- Finally, the centre will co-host an Austrian film festival with the film studies department at the end of March.



President Rod Fraser shares a laugh with Dr. Casper Einem.



Faculty of Arts Dean Patricia Clements

Renegade researchers intent on xenotransplants

Potential for disaster increased by "cowboys" who push the envelope

By Richard Cairney

Renegade researchers have already transplanted pig organs into humans despite widespread concern over such procedures—and more such surgeries will be done in the next 18 months, despite global health risks, according to a World Health Organization official.

Dr. Abdallah Daar, who chaired a WHO task force on xenotransplantation and is now WHO's special rapporteur on xenotransplantation, predicts pig-to-human transplants will be performed in a matter of months, not years. Speaking at the Second International Conference on DNA Sampling, hosted last week by the University of Alberta's Health Law Institute, Daar said social and scientific pressures are making the transplantation of pig organs into humans "irresistible."

"[It] (the emergence of a new virus) only needs to happen once in a thousand episodes for it to be a global crisis and therefore, let's proceed with caution."

Dr. Abdallah Daar

But he's worried the transplant will be performed before enough is known about possible repercussions.

There is widespread concern in the international research community that xenotransplantation could create more problems than it solves. Early draft protocols suggest regular direct observation of the patient, the patient's family and contacts—perhaps for the remainder of the patient's life. Researchers fear xenotransplantation could facilitate a cross-species viral leap and endanger both human and pig populations.

The potential for disaster is increased by the possibility of "cowboys" pushing the envelope of modern science.

"There is a case of a pig—probably heart and kidney transplant—that was done in India, under very mysterious circumstances, where the patient died," Daar said.

"And the fear is that you're just going to get cowboys who are going to go ahead and do this, what is called expatriate research, somewhere in Africa or somewhere where there are unregulated regimes and perhaps under the guise of some other experiment."

While there are some international guidelines on xenotransplantation, agreed to by most developed nations, "there is no global policeman to stop people from doing this," Daar said.

With waiting lists for human organ donations growing every day, and far too few donations being made, xenotransplantation is "a here and now issue," agreed Dr. Therese Leroux, a University of Montreal law professor who also addressed the conference.

"The major concern is with regard to the potential for the transfer of infectious agents," she said.



Dr. Abdallah Daar, World Health Organization

as we can go with laboratory and animal research and we are only going to know if this will work in human beings if we put the organs in the human beings."

Problems arise when we consider what we do not yet know, Daar said.

"We do not have the scientific base yet, we do not know how to assess the risks yet, we know there is a risk, we think the risk is appreciable without being able to quantify it, and we know the outcome of the risk is huge. It (the emergence of a new virus) only needs to happen once in a thousand episodes for it to be a global crisis and therefore, let's proceed with caution."

Dr. Arvind Koshal, clinical professor of surgery and head of cardio-thoracic surgery at the University of Alberta Hospital, agrees pressure to see pig-to-human transplants is increasing. Biotech firms have invested heavily into xenotransplant research and "want to capitalize on that."

More important, he said, the transplants would save lives.

"That pressure has been there for several years. Twenty per cent of our patients die on the waiting list for heart transplants."

If the transplant were performed today, Koshal is confident a patient would survive. But no one will perform the operation because of the post-operative unknowns. Koshal, a member of Health Canada's National Xenotransplantation Committee, doesn't agree with Daar's renegade researcher theory, though, because of the very risks Daar cites as representing a potential public health threat.

"A few years ago, I was saying I thought this would happen within a year," Koshal said. "There is no guarantee there will be no infection risk to the host or to the public at large. This has become a public health issue more than a xenotransplantation issue." ■

DEMAND FOR TRANSPLANTS

Demand for organ transplants 1996

	Canada	US
On wait list	3,072	52,000
receiving transplant	1,557	20,000
number of donors	689	8,500
% donation rate	14.1%	17.1%

Medical Post

Can genetic researchers be trusted with the gene pool?

Examining the implications for people with disabilities

By Lee Elliott

If your doctor told you your unborn child has a condition affecting its employability and lifetime earnings, what would you think?

Now, what would you think if your doctor just said, "It's a girl?"

The shift in perception you may have felt with these two examples is at the heart of a debate over what advances in genetic research might mean to the gene pool.

Will we have prenatal tests for the gay gene? The criminality gene? And what would be the long-term effects of eliminating conditions like schizophrenia, depression, cystic fibrosis?

Who judges what's acceptable and what we eliminate?

"In the '20s and '30s, many countries were dealing with the issue of whether women were persons," says Dr. Dick Sobsey, director of the U of A's J.P. Das Developmental Disabilities Centre. In the German war regime, the judgment of disabled people was "Life's not worth living," says Sobsey. "Well who decides?"

In one study, people who depended on a respirator to live were asked to rate their quality of life on an eight-point scale. Then their caregivers were asked to rate their own lives. "Both the caregiver and the people who were respirator dependent rated their own quality of life as 5.2," says Sobsey. "But when caregivers rated those on respirators, the scale went to one or two."

Yet in the case of prenatal genetics counselling, the person providing the ad-



Dr. Dorothy Wertz

vice may share the caregivers' perceptions—or be even less informed.

"I don't mean to say that the typical genetic counsellor is out there with cynical motives," says Sobsey. It's just that "people's own perception of their objectivity isn't a good indication of what actually happens."

What actually happens is a process stacked against people with disabilities.

"The very fact that people are being offered these tests makes it very difficult to say no," says Professor Darren Shickle, Public Health Medicine, University of Sheffield. In the U.K., "doctors say they're not getting their information from any more sophisticated sources than the general public are."

Yet according to Dr. Dorothy Wertz, senior scientist for the Shriver Centre for Mental Retardation, the trend worldwide

is for counsellors to provide purposely slanted information, much of it pessimistic, or to give directive advice. This is less prevalent in English-speaking countries, but Wertz's attitudinal surveys lead her to predict we'll soon catch up as primary-care physicians take over counselling from geneticists. "A lot of them make no bones about suggesting abortion...you have no comeback. They're the experts."

Doctors are influenced by the companies that manufacture tests, she says. In one study, she compared brochures on cystic fibrosis produced by public hospitals, universities, foundations and commercial companies. "Guess where the most pessimistic brochures came from: commercial companies. If you're trying to market tests, you don't want to say you can have a rich, rewarding life if you have cystic fibrosis." Instead, you paint a bleak picture and describe CF as "drowning in fluid...That presumably sells tests."

There's also a growing trend worldwide, she says, for geneticists to bow to patient requests, or when they don't, to make a referral to someone who will.

So what will we lose by eliminating cystic fibrosis, schizophrenia or Down's syndrome? We just don't know, says Sobsey. He cites the example of Charles Darwin who suffered from severe depression during the periods when he was doing his most creative work. "It's ironic that people look to the survival of the fittest to get rid of people like Darwin," he says. Schizophrenic people are known to be

"particularly creative and intelligent and turn out to be major contributors to society," in periods when their condition is stable.

However, Dr. Allan Ryan, U of A business professor, thinks genetics research doesn't have to mean getting rid of the person, just the condition. He has a son with autism and is an advocate for the rights of others with autism. Ryan says when his wife, nearing her 40s, was pregnant with their last child in New York State, the doctor ordered nearly triple the number of prenatal tests performed for her other pregnancies. When Ryan asked about all the invasive procedures, he says the doctor replied: "Well obviously you want to be able to make the choice to have an abortion if your child has Down's syndrome..." Ryan says, they didn't want that choice. However, if he'd had the choice for safe prenatal intervention, "I would have opted for it. That doesn't mean I'd eliminate my child...A person is a person. A disability is a condition."

Another questioner from the audience made the same distinction between prenatal genetic testing directed toward abortion and that toward therapy. If you ask people with disabilities whether they'd rather be alive or dead, "I suspect the answer is alive." However, she said, "There are precious few individuals with disabilities who would not rid themselves of their conditions if they could."

The discussion was part of the international conference on genetic research held recently in Edmonton and sponsored by the U of A's Health Law Institute. ■

Getting a grip on a literary giant

By Geoff McMaster

Some might find it a little creepy. Others might even call it downright morbid. But for members of the English department, the handsome plaster cast of William Makepeace Thackeray's right paw is an irresistible embodiment of a great tradition.

"It's the reification of our literary past reaching out and touching us, even now,"

Graduate Student Nat Hardy won a grand prize of \$5 for this entry in a 1994 English department writing contest, "Shaking Thackeray's Hand."

thacker eh?

stalled digits
of fair vanity
silenced
by a cast system
of sorts.

handsome clutch-
the hushed grip
that once rocked continents,
ensconced
till the cows come home.

and though I can't put my
unworthy finger on it—
no ivories shall it tickle
no parchment will it scribe
no nose will it—
picturesque.

the grand duke knuckled under
in quiet reflection—
a tarnished
lily white reminder
to makepeace
with yer
moneymaker.

says sessional English instructor Dr. David Annandale, who was moved four years ago to write a highly gothic poem on the department's prized possession.

"I was struck by the idea of shaking a disembodied death mask of a hand, and the sort of cold, slick feel that it would probably have," he says. "I mean, the hand raises questions."

Indeed, Annandale poses one such question in his poem, "Limbinal," which took second place in a department contest on the subject. "Wondering why you're doing this?" he inquires of the inordinately large clenched fist. "Why the white stump in your pink and getting clammy grasp? Bit late in the game for those questions: They should have occurred to you before, and they're irrelevant now."

Plaster casts were made from both the hand that penned *Vanity Fair* and the author's face on the night he died in 1863. The mask turned out badly and was rejected, because according to Thackeray's physician, it had "none of the charm of expression so attractive during life." The hand, however, "recalls to me very strongly the character of the original," wrote Sir Henry Thompson.

The eerie relic was kept by Thackeray's daughter, passed on to his granddaughter, and then eventually ended up in the Canadian Room of the International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago. According to a curator at the museum, surgeons may have acquired the piece by mistake, assuming it was Thackeray's actual hand and therefore of surgical interest.

Looking for a more appropriate home for the prolific limb, the curator was put in touch with the University of Alberta's English department, somewhat renowned for its Thackeray scholarship. The hand arrived in 1994, and has been a fixture behind glass in the Salter Library ever since. ■



A plaster cast of William Makepeace Thackeray's right hand, made the night he died in 1863, now rests in peace with the English department.

Books at the U of A

By Lee Elliott

Bert Almon

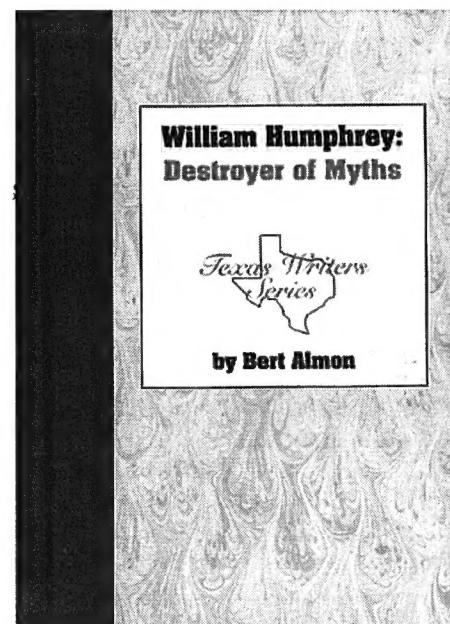
William Humphrey: Destroyer of Myths

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS PRESS

Dr. Bert Almon, professor of English, known for his eight collections of poetry, began thinking of writing this biography after receiving a fan letter from American novelist William Humphrey on a review Almon had written on one of Humphrey's books.

"He was very secretive most of his life," says Almon, "and remarked to his agent once that he didn't want the press to know even the color of his eyes. But when I began my project, he was dying of cancer and must have wanted the world to know more about him for the sake of his survival as a writer." Humphrey gave Almon the right to quote from his 19 cartons of papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas. He died just two weeks after Almon submitted the manuscript, so he never read it.

"The papers were remarkably explicit about his problems with alcohol and writer's block," says Almon. "I also made use of his long correspondence with Katherine Anne Porter held at the University of Maryland. He was very private but had interesting friends: Katherine Anne Porter, Leonard Woolf, Peggy Ashcroft, and members of the Partisan Review circle in New York."



Humphrey's first novel, *Home from the Hill*, was a best seller and made into a Hollywood movie by Vincente Minelli with Robert Mitchum in the lead. Humphrey never saw the film.

"He came from Clarksville, a tiny town in Texas," says Almon, "and worried all his life about his family's 'poor white trash' status there. When he was 13 he bought a used copy of *Don Quixote* in Charles W. Eliot's Harvard Classics series and was struck by the editor's suggestion that writers achieve immortality through their work."

Claude Couture, translated by Vivien Bosley

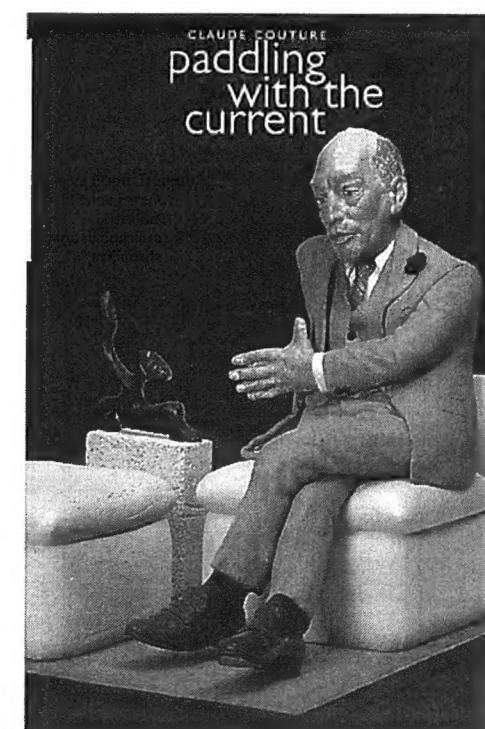
Paddling with the Current: Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Etienne Parent, liberalism and nationalism in Canada

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PRESS

Dr. Claude Couture, professor in Faculté Saint-Jean and in the Department of History, received equal parts rave reviews and consternation on the 1996 release of *La Loyauté d'un Laïc: Pierre Elliott Trudeau, et le libéralisme canadien* published in Paris and Montreal by Harmattan. The release of the English translation by The U of A Press may well trigger a new debate over the influence of the flamboyant Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Gilles Lesage, in *Le Devoir*, called the French edition "a searing, stimulating essay." He went on to describe Couture as "no less effective than a scalpel, as pointed as a lancet."

In the book, Couture paints the man who has shaped Canadian political life for nearly thirty years as an inheritor more than an instigator. He draws a straight line from the traditions of Canadian liberalism



exemplified by Etienne Parent to the "revolutionary" ideas put forward by Trudeau in his early writings in the influential journal *Cité Libre*.

Couture's other books include *Mythe de la Modernisation du Québec* (1991) and *Histoire du Canada* (1996). ■

Women embark on journey of faith

Rise in religious fundamentalism a concern for women

By Geoff McMaster

It may not be possible for a handful of women to "feminize power" and change a world threatened by religious fundamentalism and corporate conquest. But since revolution starts small, four Canadian women representing four world religions are willing to take the first steps.

One Muslim, one Christian, one Hindu and one First Nations elder are coming together for an interfaith journey to India next month where they'll share stories and rituals, attempt to bridge chasms of misunderstanding and begin weaving a web of "communal harmony."

They're not sure what to expect during their three-week stay in the troubled country of nearly one billion and they have no illusions about what they can learn or accomplish in such a short time. They only believe that combating religious hatred must start locally with those who often feel the losses most acutely—women.

Dr. Zhora Husaini, the Muslim delegate on this journey, sponsored by the United Church of Canada, is intimately familiar with such loss. She was raised in India and saw many families torn apart by the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. Because religious conflict continues to cause rioting in her homeland, the former University of Alberta sociology instructor says women of all faiths must now step forward and make themselves heard.

"Patriarchal views are dominant in religion, in faith and in interfaith," says Husaini, who is also the Alberta president of the World Interfaith Education Association. "The walls erected by established religion are the hardest to break. It's time for more feminine voices—not feminist voices but feminine voices. It's a worldwide issue, and Canadian women could learn something from the India experience."

The Canadian delegates will be hosted by four Indian women, representing the same faiths, who will organize tours to communities suffering from communal tension, says Husaini. About 83 per cent of India's population is Hindu. Muslims account for 12 per cent, and the remainder is made up of Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains, India's indigenous people.

When the Canadian women return home, they'll gather at the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre in Winnipeg, a native retreat, to share what they've learned with 25 women of various faiths from across Canada. Next summer, their four Indian hosts will come to Canada.

"We're hoping for some significant insight, through video or writing, perhaps articles in a book, that would eventually provide some transition in the nature of interfaith relationships," says Rev. Bruce Gregerson, interfaith secretary for the United Church.

Calgary writer and Christian delegate Carolyn Pogue says she sees only one positive thing coming out of globalization. "What we're seeing is corporations taking over in one country after the other...and people are feeling kind of powerless about that." One advantage of global integration, she says, is "we can learn from each other one-to-one."

"One of the first things that happened when the four of us got together is tell menstruation stories. We made a connection that had nothing to do with the country we were raised in, nothing to do with our culture—it had everything to do with [the fact that] we are all women."

Hindu delegate Manju (Nina) Acharya, also raised in India, will share her experiences in a course on sociology and health next term at the U of A. She'll focus on the relationship between faith and general well-being but is also interested in how women are dealing with an increase in interfaith marriages.

"With all of this modernization and urbanization, people are going out—women and men both—and being exposed to all these employment situations. It's not like the olden days when women were sheltered inside in the home environment." But while women meet men of all faiths in the workplace, tension between faiths in the community still run high. There is much to be learned about negotiating relationships.

In the long run, argues Pogue, it is women who will prevent the rise of fundamentalism in all its forms. "If women together can weave a global web, nothing can stop it. And it begins with one person...For me there's no line between politics and religion. Politics is just how you live out your faith—that's what Jesus was all about." ■



Dr. Zhora Husaini

Colette M. Lehodey

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Heritage Lounge
Athabasca Hall
Tuesday, September 29, 1998
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Punch & cake will be served.

U of A Accommodation Guide

These facilities have contracted with the University of Alberta to provide accommodations at the rates indicated. Each facility has unique features and offers something to suit everyone's taste. To accommodate special guests to the University, reservations can be made using the Hotel Authorization Program (HAP) form which allows post-payment by the hosting department.

These rates are per night and are exclusive of convention conference rates which are established by conference/convention organizers. Rates valid to December 31, 1998 unless otherwise noted, taxes not included.



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Popular classics professor rose to fame as best-selling historical novelist

W. G. Hardy (1895-1979)

By Geoff McMaster

Dr. George Hardy did almost everything with speed and intensity, leaving those around him in the dust.

He finished public school at 10, taught himself Latin "just for fun" by 11. He learned Greek at 16, while working as a "hired hand" on his father's farm and picked up speed reading on his own, settling in at an average pace of 300 pages per hour "with complete comprehension." He later claimed to have written one of his best known short stories, "The Czech Dog," in just 25 minutes. "I write very fast," he said at age 84. "I never pretended to be a genius, but I have a talent for writing. I know my stuff."

Described by a former colleague in 1973 as "possibly the most popular lecturer the University of Alberta ever had," the classics professor rose to international stardom as both a scholar of ancient history and as a writer of novels, short stories and radio plays. He also served three terms as president of the Canadian Authors' Association, and was a key mover in the world of amateur hockey as president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, the International Ice Hockey Federation, and the Ligue Internationale de Hockey sur Glace.

Having received his post-secondary education at the Universities of Chicago and Toronto, the 25-year-old Hardy joined the U of A classics department in 1920. He

remained until his retirement in 1964, serving as department head for 26 years. In 1928 he published his first novel, *Son of Eli*, in serial form to *MacLean's* magazine, and went on to publish numerous short stories in a number of prestigious magazines. By the 1950s, Hardy's carefully researched historical novels were selling rapidly in paperback and foreign editions, becoming, in the words of former university president Walter Johns, "classics of our own day." The vastly popular *City of Libertines* alone sold more than 750,000 copies.

"Immigrants reaching Alberta were almost awed to learn that Dr. W.G. Hardy lived here," wrote John Patrick Gillespie in a tribute to Hardy for the Canadian Authors' Association. "One Jewish youth told me how he had pored over *Father Abraham* in Edinburgh University. A German engineer had read *All the Trumpets Sounded* in the Dutch translation—the only novel by a Canadian he could find before coming to Canada."

According to Gillespie, Hardy's novels enjoyed unusual success because he was able to escape the academy's often stodgy approach to language. "He deliberately abandoned the 'literary' style to which professors in particular seem doomed, in favor of the brisk, colorful and contemporary style that readers were willing to accept."

Some of that briskness and color earned Hardy a good deal of controversy in an age



W. G. Hardy (1895-1979)

less liberal than our own, particularly his realistic depictions of sex in *Father Abraham* and *Turn Back the River*. But the historian had done his homework, insisting with conviction that he "portrayed those people as they were." He felt there were good reasons for exposing the excesses that destroyed the Roman Empire and threatened moral decline in the modern era.

This 20th century Renaissance man was blessed, he said, with a natural ability

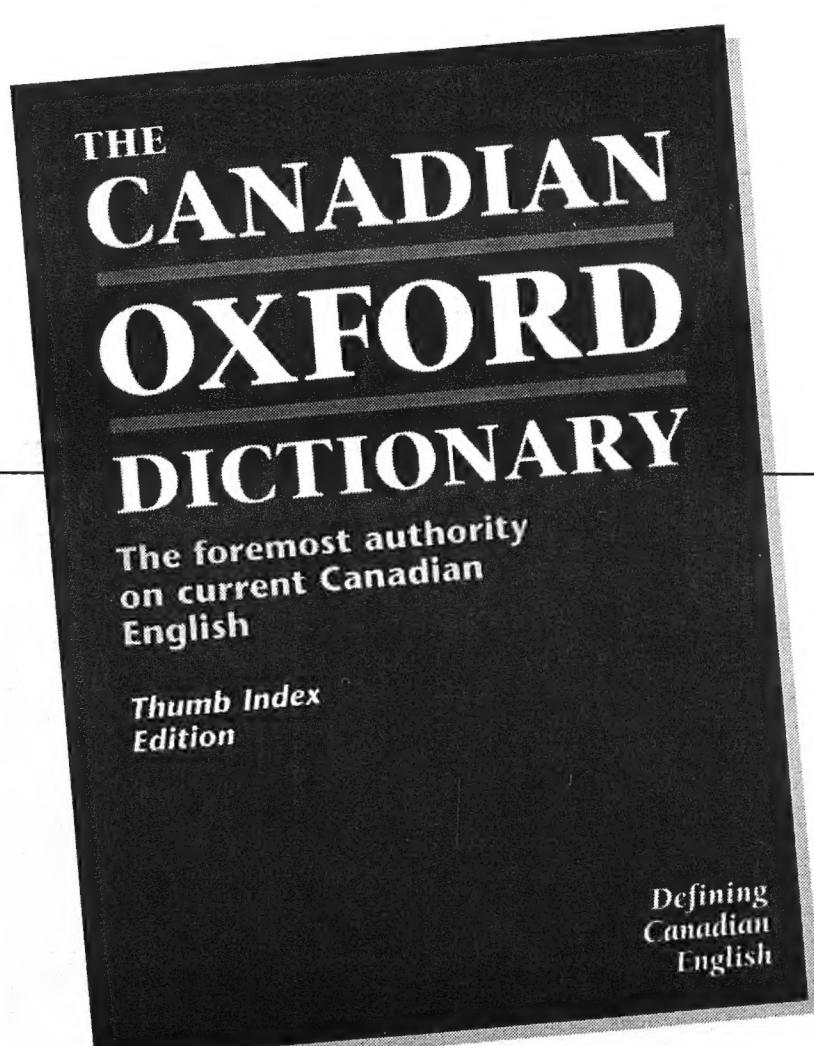
to "package my mind and package my time." He would typically come home from work in the late afternoon to spend time with family, devote evenings to hockey (or Edmonton's Little Theatre), and finally get down to the serious business of writing around 11 p.m.

"In my younger days, I could do with a few hours' sleep at night and one good night's sleep per week," he said at age 79. "Now I'm lazy—I went to bed at 1 a.m. yesterday and didn't get up till 8:30 a.m."

As a member of the Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame, Hardy is remembered for his devotion to sport. "That's the Greek way of doing things," he said. "I didn't want to become a straight academic." He coached the University of Alberta's hockey team to several championships, and spent much of his life promoting amateur hockey and decrying the encroachment of professionalism on the pure pursuit of excellence. "Once professionalism steps into the picture, the quality of sportsmanship often tends to deteriorate," he once argued.

By the end of his life in 1979, Hardy's track record was staggering. Besides seven historical novels and nine histories, he produced more than 200 short stories, 100 articles, 1,000 radio talks and five radio plays. The laurels followed, including, among others, induction to the Order of Canada and the Government of Canada's Centennial Medal. ■

meet Katherine Barber editor of *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*



**Saturday,
September 26, 1998
(Super Saturday)**

**Open House from 12:30 to 3:30pm
Rutherford House
Provincial Historic Site
11153 Saskatchewan Drive North**

Visionary Research

U of A researchers combine talents to search for genetic links to eye disease

Stories by Rhonda Lothammer, AHFMR

ALBERTA HERITAGE
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MEDICAL RESEARCH



Good fences make good neighbors

The fence that former Edmonton neighbors Dr. Dragan Krstic and Dr. Ian MacDonald built is sturdy after nearly a decade of Alberta weather and should last another ten years.

If only the same could be said of Krstic's eyesight. He began to have difficulty with night vision 30 years ago when he was a young man. The diagnosis sounded innocuous enough: night blindness. But after experiencing gradual decline in daytime vision, he was diagnosed in 1978 with retinitis pigmentosa (RP).

By the time MacDonald moved into the house next door in the early '90s, Krstic, a former U of A physics professor, had significant vision loss. Nevertheless, as he puts it, "It wasn't very easily noticed because it was slowly progressive. I grew used to it and could adapt." Even

MacDonald, who became a good friend and helped Krstic build a fence between their two properties, did not notice anything wrong.

It was only after Krstic's youngest daughter experienced eye problems and was referred to MacDonald that a clearer picture emerged of Krstic's disorder. After discussing the Krstic family's medical history with his neighbor, MacDonald tested both father and daughter for choroideremia, a form of RP. The results showed Krstic clearly had the disease. His daughter's eye problems were unrelated, but her test results identified her as a carrier, who will not, because of the genetics of choroideremia, develop the disease herself.

The mutated gene causing choroideremia is inherited and dominant

on the X chromosome. Because males have an X and a Y chromosome, it most often appears in males whereas females with two X chromosomes inherit one defective X from their father, becoming carriers for the condition. Each one of their offspring has a 50 per cent chance of inheriting the defective X chromosome.

"Research is absolutely vital for future therapies for choroideremia and retinitis pigmentosa," says Krstic. "We now have the tests that we didn't have before, but it is only with ongoing research that I have hope, not for me, but for my children and their children. I feel fortunate that I have a 'cadillac' disease in the R.P. group. So many others have 'lemons' and have lost their eyesight at a very young age. At least I've had 50 years."



Dr. Ian MacDonald and Dr. Dragan Krstic

Photos: Richard Siemens

Gene sleuth looks to family trees

Dr. Bill Pearce, U of A professor emeritus, has a special interest in genetic eye disorders. A westerner at heart, Pearce declined opportunities at more established medical schools to come to Edmonton in the early '70s and develop the Ocular Genetics Clinic. As he built his practice in Alberta, he began tracking the incidence of rare eye disorders in families.

Twenty-five years ago, before the revolution in genetic technology, Pearce had to rely on blood group markers to trace genetic linkages, a method effective for only some diseases. With the advent of modern molecular genetics, he was able to home in on more specific genetic causes of certain conditions and focus particularly on congenital stationary night blindness, a retinal disorder present at birth in varying degrees of severity that doesn't progressively worsen.

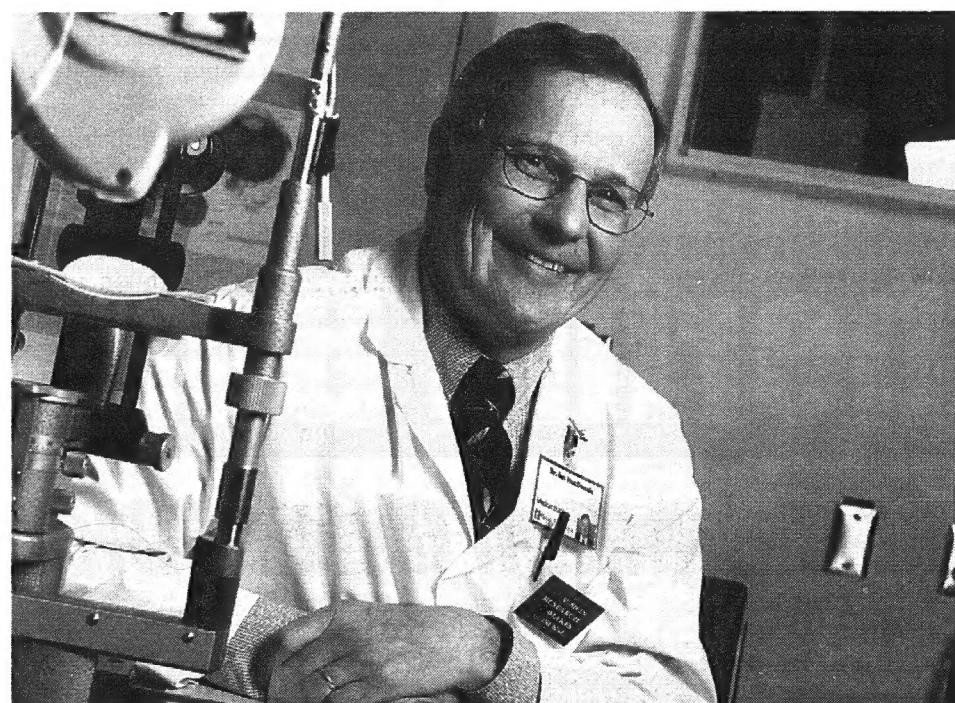
Pearce has collaborated with U of C geneticist Dr. Torben Beck Hansen, to map a gene for this disease. Their studies have led to the identification of one form that occurs in significant numbers in families of Mennonite origins. Eventually, Pearce and Beck-Hansen were able to trace the gene back through generations to a founding member with the conditions.

Pearce's contact with patients from across Alberta led to a database of more than 1,500 people with rare eye diseases.

Innovative genetic test catches rare eye disease early

U of A ophthalmologist Dr. Ian MacDonald's research in choroideremia has earned him international recognition and funding from throughout North America.

The retinal degeneration resulting from this rare eye disease, one of the family of disorders known as retinitis pigmentosa (RP), leads progressively to blindness,



Dr. Ian MacDonald is funded through the Health Research Fund, administered by AHFMR on behalf of Alberta Health. He also receives funding from the Medical Research Council of Canada and the RP Foundation Fighting Blindness in Canada.

sometimes by early adulthood. There is no cure, but a diagnostic test developed by MacDonald can help affected people make necessary changes in their lives.

MacDonald combined his initial training in molecular applications of clinical genetics with a specialization in ophthalmology after working with a large extended family in Ontario, many of whose members suffered from choroideremia. He came to the U of A in 1992 to help build a centre devoted to eye disease research. His efforts, and those of his colleagues in the ophthalmology department, have led to their laboratory being designated the only reference laboratory in North America for choroideremia.

Health Research Fund support gave Dr. MacDonald and his team the means to develop a revolutionary new molecular genetics test for detecting choroideremia. The test gauges antibody reaction to a key protein, extracted from a blood sample that is implicated in choroideremia. The accuracy and simplicity of the test has attracted international attention.

Dr. MacDonald has also contributed significantly to the Department of Ophthalmology's Alberta family database of rare eye diseases.

Unique database draws researcher to U of A

Family ties lured Heritage researcher Dr. Michael Walter from Cambridge, England to the U of A where he's currently assistant professor ophthalmology. These families aren't Walter's long-lost cousins, however. They are the more than 1,000 individuals on the rare genetic eye diseases database started by Dr. Bill Pearce.

Walter is a human geneticist whose focus in ophthalmology evolved from his post-doctoral work in male sexual development. The Cambridge research team he was with successfully cloned the gene that switches on testes development in embryos. Without this gene, called SRY, embryos become females. He left Cambridge with a fascination for how the body makes decisions that lead to the development of an egg to an adult organism.

The best way scientists have of studying genes that control overall development is to focus on a simpler model—in Walter's case, the genes involved in forming organs like the testes, or now, the eye.

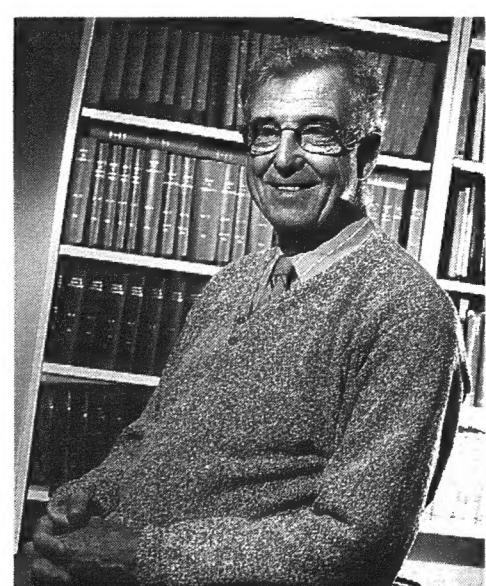
Walter describes the U of A database as "the bread and butter of my human genetics research." When he found defects of the front part of the eye a distinctive feature of the database information, he initiated several projects that may some day yield valuable tools to fight a major cause of blindness: glaucoma.

Walter heads an international collaboration to identify the major genetic causes of glaucoma. Using DNA samples and molecular applications on tissue collected from a family from Alberta and the Maritimes and two families in Great Britain, he hopes to find what causes two rare eye malformations, iridogoniodysgenesis anomaly (IGDA) and Axenfeld-Rieger anomaly (ARA). More than half of patients with these conditions develops glaucoma.

Walter suspects a common gene mutates in both diseases. Identification of the precise genetic causes of IGDA and ARA could lead to early detection of glaucoma and treatments targeted at specific genes.



Dr. Michael Walter is an AHFMR Scholar in the U of A's Department of Ophthalmology and Medical Genetics. He also receives funding from the Medical Research Council of Canada.



Dr. Bill Pearce has collaborated with U of C geneticist Dr. Torben Beck Hansen to map a gene for congenital stationary night blindness. He's also built a database of people with rare eye diseases that's attracting top researchers to the U of A.

Japanese printmaker found spiritual home in Edmonton

Gift of a year's work marks sabbatical stay

By Geoff McMaster

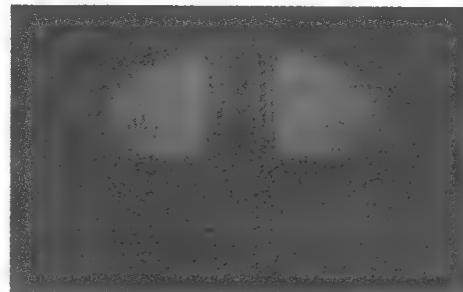
As Dr. Ryoji Ikeda sees it, Edmonton is "a good place to recognize yourself as human." That's why the internationally renowned Japanese printmaker chose to spend his sabbatical leave in U of A studios when he could have gone anywhere in the world. Something about our corner of the globe reminds him of his small-town home in northern Japan. The prairie speaks to him with the same hauntingly familiar voice of both desolation and beauty.

It's a spiritual context the artist needs to do his best work, which conveys a powerful sense of absence and loss. Ikeda describes himself as a contemporary Romantic looking for scenes pregnant with longing. Canadian winters seemed to fit the bill.

Born to the Samurai class in 1947, Ikeda grew up in Nemuro, a small fishing village on the far northeastern coast of Japan with a climate similar to Alberta's. Nemuro was established as a satellite community for Tokyo to accommodate the city's exploding population around the turn of the century. In some ways, says Ikeda, the political feeling in the region mirrors Western Canada's relationship to the more powerful and populous east.

In his own work, however, Ikeda is inspired by the visual qualities of his barren surroundings. As early as junior high school, he painted scenes of the rural life he knew so well. It wasn't until 1975, however, after graduating from Musashino Art University in Tokyo and lecturing at the Tokyo Polytechnic of Photography, that he latched on to etching as his principal medium. Regarded as the founder of the photo-etching printmaking process in Japan, he never again picked up a paintbrush.

Ikeda was invited to the U of A for a brief stay four years ago and enjoyed it so much he decided to return for all of the past academic year. He was moved, he



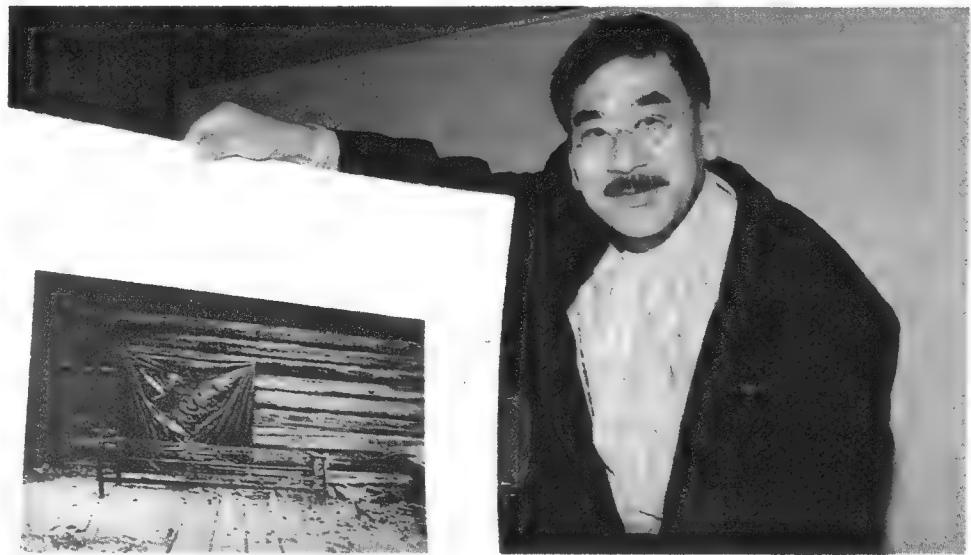
says, not only by the strange shock of recognition he felt living in Western Canada, but also by the progressive and growing printmaking division of the university's fine arts department.

"When an artist decides to spend his whole sabbatical working here, that's a real endorsement of the program," says Walter Jule, one of several faculty members who invited Ikeda here in the first place. As a further endorsement, Ikeda agreed to leave behind his year's body of work—10 prints valued at about \$20,000—when he returned to Tokyo last week.

Ikeda's current show, running until next Thursday in the Print Study Centre, is called *Penumbrae*. Simply defined, the title means 'partial shadows,' or areas of ambiguity or uncertainty. At their core, Ikeda's scenes deal with the way human perception, particularly memory, fades into blackness around a single provocative image.

"The feeling that there used to be people here, there was some kind of activity going on, that's central to his work," says Ikeda's interpreter and third-year printmaking student Koichi Yamamoto. "There is a sense of a tradition that was here, and maybe still is, but we don't know."

Ikeda is captivated by the trace, by the remnants of what has passed. And so while his sensibility may be Romantic, his approach is clearly Post-modern in that it evades a full, clear expression of meaning.



Dr. Ryoji Ikeda displays one of his haunting prints

Using his skill as a trained photographer, he typically finds a place imbued with just the right balance of presence and absence—a sheet hanging in the doorway of an old farm building, or a bed in an abandoned shack—then captures the stark scene on film. He then transfers that photographic image to copper to make an impression on paper, the intermediary process itself mirroring the filtering quality of memory.

Ikeda's prints are anything but complete. They don't tell the whole story. With titles such as "Atmosphere of Absence" and "Memory Sitting Still," there are large areas of shade or darkness obscuring one suggestive image. The viewer is urged to fill in this psychological landscape with an emotional response, participating in the creative act. It's a feeling remarkably similar to letting your eyes adjust to a dark room after coming from the light.

"It's not that you can just look at it and understand from the impact," says Ikeda, through Yamamoto. "It's more like a reading," he says, involving contemplation and



reflection. As Kunio Motoe, chief curator of the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo once remarked, Ikeda "unintentionally engulfs himself at a boundary between life and death, the entrance to the other world." ■

***Penumbrae*, a collection of Ikeda's prints, is now running in the Print Study Centre, room 3-78, Fine Arts Building until Sept 24. The centre's hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, and 1 to 4 p.m. Friday from noon to 4 p.m.**

» quick » facts

Raconteur's muse lives on

Bequest will fund host of writing prizes

By Geoff McMaster

Dr. Alison White lived to spin a good yarn. Whenever you'd meet her, the English department's first female professor would have yet another story to tell, rhyme to recite or anecdote with which to amuse a crowd.

"Possessed with a phenomenal memory, ironically eliminated as her Alzheimer's progressively took hold in the last months of her life, she could recite thousands of lines of poetry, including her own verse, much of it very good," says colleague and friend Dr. Larry McKill.

She retired in 1974 and died just short of her 89th birthday last March, but did all in her power to find a home for her muse in the Faculty of Arts. She left the faculty and English department \$190,000 to fund the Writer-in-Residence program and a host of faculty writing prizes.

"Alison was a very verbal, witty person," says Associate Dean of Arts Dr. Rob Merrett. "She was not a big publisher...she was essentially a raconteur and an anecdotalist. But she was interested in creative writers, being a witty, whimsical poet herself." White did publish one volume of poetry late in her life called *Pockets Full of Stars* with the Juvenilia Press.

As one of the first academics anywhere to take the study of children's literature seriously, White wrote seminal essays on works such as *The Secret Garden* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*. She was a highly regarded teacher and honors supervisor and had a "great fondness for the traditional qualities of the honors program," says Merrett. She wanted to make sure that tradition lived on.

The portion of her bequest earmarked for the Writer in Residence, about \$95,000, is the largest contribution from an individual ever made to that program. It will bring the total endowment to \$330,000, up from \$240,000, says Merrett.



Dr. Alison White

Approximately \$6,000 will be added to the existing \$9,000 fund for prizes in the English department, including the Alison White Award in literature for outstanding work in children's literature. An additional \$85,000 will boost the endowment used for five honors prizes in the Faculty of Arts, each of which may soon amount to about \$1,000.

"Her bequest suitably supports three aspects of academic life in the Department of English that meant the most to her," says McKill. "Honors students, children's literature, and creative writing."

By raising the value of the prizes, says Merrett, the faculty hopes to provide incentive for outstanding writing.

"In a way [White] is helping us recognize the highest academic achievers in the faculty. She was sort of traditional and old-fashioned about these things, so she would have liked that." ■

A fish by any other name

By Geoff McMaster

The question is, will it taste sweeter by another name?

Biologists have decided to change the common name of four species of squawfish because aboriginal groups are finding the moniker unpalatable. The Sacramento, Colorado, northern and Umpqua squawfish will henceforth be known as pikeminnows, says zoologist Dr. Joe Nelson.

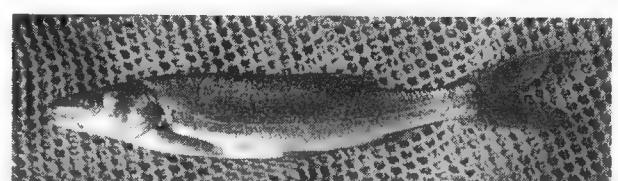
"It really came to head at a meeting in Seattle about a year ago," says Nelson. "Native groups (from the Columbia River area) presented us with really overwhelming evidence that the word itself was offensive, and they just didn't want it used in any connotation, with a fish or any other way."

Regardless of whether *squaw* was originally intended to be derogatory to Native American women, the naming committee of the American Fisheries Society decided this summer the term was now sufficiently offensive to warrant discarding. In making the change, the committee cited a central tenet of their guidebook: "Names should not violate the tenets of good taste."

"We don't judge whether or not it's offensive to non-native people – it's offensive to native people and that's the key we should look at," says School of Native Studies Director Art Beaver, who advised Nelson on the issue. "Particularly at a time

now when aboriginal women are becoming strong leaders and reasserting their place in aboriginal society."

Of the four species, only the northern pikeminnow is found in Alberta, mainly in the Peace River. While people tend to have "a great disdain" for the 89-mm, pale brown and silver fish because it feeds on young salmon, it's nonetheless a popular target for anglers, says Nelson. But whether fishermen will eagerly adopt the term *pikeminnow* is anybody's guess.

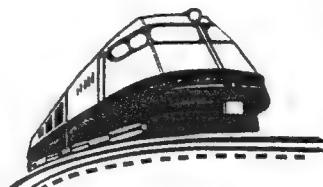


"Some people felt the name was so entrenched with anglers it could never be changed," says Nelson. "With enough publicity, in time I think it will. For some anglers it may take decades, who knows."

He says *pikeminnow* is an accurate enough scientific description of the fish for now, but the committee is still searching for a permanent aboriginal name for the *ptychocheilus* species.

"We do not regard the matter as closed," says Beaver, "because they didn't adopt any of the suggested indigenous names. I think a little bit more research would come up with an acceptable name." ■

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September 30th 7:30 pm

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about his new book, *Zigzag*, the sequel to
his bestseller, *Confessions of an Igloo Dweller*.
Tickets \$5

October 1st 7:30 pm

Location: Royal Glenora Club
Meet Governor General's Award winning
author, **Greg Hollingshead**, and join
Greenwoods' in celebrating the publication of
his new novel, *The Healer*.
Tickets \$5

October 5th 7:30 pm

Location: Provincial Museum Gallery 3
Meet author and CBC radio host,
Jay Ingram, who will
be reading from his new book,
The Barmaid's Brain and presenting
a slide show.
Tickets \$5

October 6th 7:30 pm,

Location: Royal Glenora Club
Meet **Gail-Anderson-Dargatz**,
the author of the bestselling
The Cure For Death By Lightning, and
a new novel, *A Recipe for Bees*.
Join Greenwoods' for a reading, signing,
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Net proceeds from all ticket sales will be donated
to the U of A Writer in Residence Program

For information updates, phone 439-2005,
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Rowland McMaster

"Ring around the rosie" key to better reading

Music skills help with language development

By Lucianna Ciccioppo

*Ring around the rosie,
A pocket full of posies...*

No need to finish this nursery rhyme—everybody pretty well knows it. But did you know learning, singing and clapping such rhymes can speed up reading and writing skills in young children?

That's what Dr. Amanda Montgomery, Faculty of Education, found in a recent study of 60 kindergarten children. "I was working on a sound stage of literacy," she says. Montgomery wanted to see if there was a connection between enhanced music instruction and language development, whether the skills used to learn to read music would help children learn to read and write.

Over a four-month period, she studied two groups of children, between four and five years old. One group had enhanced music instruction: games, rhymes, clapping, finger and rhythmic play. The other had a more typical process involving songs, games and playing. The children were tested before and after the four-month period.

"I was struck how dramatically different the results were." The children with the enhanced music lessons were much better at rhyme recognition, identifying starting and ending sounds in words and identifying different sounds in one sentence. These skills, says Montgomery, are the precursors to learning how to read.

*Hush-a, hush-a
We all fall down...*

While there have been studies in the last five years showing music helps develop creative and flexible thinking skills, this is one of the first studies in North America to show a connection to language development.

"I really want to turn the ears on," says Montgomery. Learning to tell the differences in rhythms, notes and melody crosses over to a heightened awareness of various word and letter sounds. "A quality music instruction can enhance that process for language instruction." That means pulling apart the music and having children listen to the structural elements.

It means not just singing but clapping to a song, to emphasize the syllables in a word. It means playing "mystery" rhythms: learn three or four songs, clap out the rhythms and have the children identify the song. Another activity is play-

ing games, while the children sing the song in their heads.

"Children develop an inner repertoire of words, and in music they develop an inner repertoire of rhythms." This is what she stresses to parents when they ask for help teaching their children to read.

*Engine, engine number nine
Going down the CN line...*

Montgomery cautions it's too soon to draw any conclusions at this point, but she does call her study results "very important." She'd like to do further studies and follow these same children as they get older.

The study does challenge the notion that music studies are peripheral and not part of basic education, says Montgomery. And it also makes a case for early, specialist music education. Most schools have a music teacher for Grades 1 to 12. Why not use the music specialist for a half-hour or so in kindergarten classes as well?

"It's easy to convince an administrator a high school band is good for morale and the Christmas pageant. Sometimes, it's not so easy to convince an administrator of the importance of 'Ring around the rosie.'"

*If the train goes off the track
Do you want your money back?*

The study, to be published later this year in the *Canadian Journal of Music Education*, could have also have implications for people working with at-risk children, children who have delayed language development and difficulty learning to read. Montgomery says some studies of music lessons for children in the early grades showed an improvement in their reading skills, but researchers were not clear why. She argues it's important for children to experience music aurally first, before attaching sounds to symbols. Now, the key is to zero in on the activities that work best, says the clarinetist and former performer.

Meanwhile, she encourages parents to sing with their children, and more important, sing nursery rhymes and clap with them. "And advocate to pre-school and kindergartens to have a strong music program. Parents have the strongest pull."

*Yes, no, maybe so
Toot-toot!*



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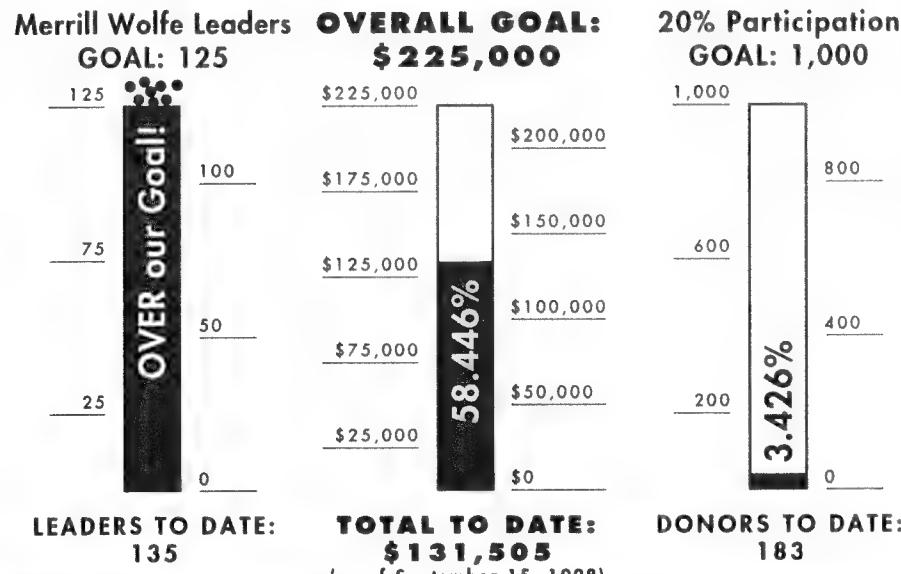
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1998

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9:30 am

Protected Effects of Climate Change on Boreal Ecosystems in Western Canada
Dennis Gignac – Prof at Faculté Saint-Jean
1-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Knowledge-Based Industries and the Alberta Economy

Mike Percy – Dean of the Faculty of Business
1-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

The Glass is Half Full! (Working Positively with Families)

Jane Drummond – Prof of Nursing
2-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Lifestyle Change: Getting Started and Keeping Going

Wendy Rodgers – Prof of Physical Education and Recreation
2-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Chinese Herbal Medicine: Fact or Fiction

Larry Wang – Prof of Bio Sciences
L-1 Humanities Centre (188 seats)

10:45 am

Alberta Politics in the New Millennium: Change and Continuity
Allan Tupper – Prof of Political Science
1-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Taking the Byte Out of Disability – The Role of Assistive Technologies
Al Cook – Dean of the Faculty of Rehab Med
1-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

"Adults' Literature" by Children
Juliet McMaster – Prof of English
2-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

The Supreme Court of Canada and the Separation of Quebec
Gerry Gall – Prof of Law
2-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

The Healing Power of Principled Living
Henry Janzen – Prof of Ed Psych
L-1 Humanities Centre (188 seats)

Lunch



Special Events

Campus Art Tour – "Private Thoughts/Public Art"

2 to 3:30 pm, Business Atrium

Join Jim Corrigan, Curator of the University of Alberta Art and Artifact Collection, and Al Forbes, Professor Emeritus, Art History for a walking tour of the public works of art on campus. Space is limited to 40 people. Following the tour, join The Friends of the University of Alberta Museums for

12:30 pm

Do Movies Mean Anything?
Bill Beard – Prof of Film Studies
1-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Stories in Quilts: Aesthetics, History and Care
Elizabeth Richards – Faculty of Home Ec
1-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Diet, Disease, and Death on the Nile
Nancy Lovell – Prof of Anthropology
2-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

"Dances with Wolves" R (not) Us: Images of Indian-ness and Native Realities
Pat McCormack – Prof of Native Studies
2-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

The Strange Economics of the Credit Card Market
Barry Scholnick – Prof of Business
L-1 Humanities Centre (188 seats)

1:45 pm

The Human Genome Project and Your Health
Diane Cox – Prof of Medical Genetics
1-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

My Zero-Gravity Experiences
Janet Elliott – Prof of Chemical and Materials Engineering
1-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Microbes for Lunch? The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Microbial Safety of Canadian Foods)
Lynn McMullen – Prof of Agriculture, Foods and Nutritional Science
2-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Soil Is Not Dirt

Jim Robertson – Prof of Renewable Resources
2-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Year 2000 Issues...Hype? or Fact?
Lettice Tse – Prof of Computing Science
L-1 Humanities Centre (188 seats)

3:00 pm

Neurobiology of Escargot: Food for Thought or Thoughtful Food
Jeffrey Goldberg – Prof of Bio Sciences
1-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

Monoliths in the Microworld: Engineered Nanomaterials
Michael Brett – Prof of Electrical Engineering
1-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

The Many Faces of Trauma Adaptation
Kathy Hegadoren – Prof of Nursing
2-05 Business Bldg (88 seats)

How Infants Walk, and How Their Walking Might Lead to New Ways to Treat Walking Disorders
Jaynie Yang – Prof of Rehab Med
2-09 Business Bldg (88 seats)

refreshments and their Annual General Meeting (Students' Lounge, Arts Building). Sponsored by the Department of Museums and Collections Services and The Friends of the University of Alberta Museums.

United Way Bookfair

9 a.m. to 4 pm, Business Atrium
Check out thousands of recently released paperback and hardcover books at bargain prices. Nothing over \$10 and books as low as 99¢. Proceeds from the sale will go to the U of A's United Way '98 Campaign.

Board highlights, September 4, 1998

CAMPAIGN RACKING UP THE DOLLARS

"It's safe to say, things are humming along," said Dr. Roger Smith, vice-president research and external affairs. The campaign has reached 92.5 per cent of its \$144.65 million goal, or \$133,862,536 as of August 19, 1998. That means the goal will be reached in advance at the end of this calendar year, Smith said.

Now, the university needs to determine the appropriate strategy to tell the public that while the campaign goal has been reached, certain "A" list targets have not. Time to shift to "individual" mode.

"Clearly, we have to do a better job of contacting individuals," said Smith. And do a better job of having them donate to the university. Smith said an estate from Victoria, B.C. (Rowland and Gladys Young) left more than \$3 million to U of A undergraduate scholarships.

U OF A ALUMNI TO PRODUCE SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

Three U of A alumni from McKinsey Consultants have offered to assist in an international recruitment initiative. Tsunyan Hsieh (BSc Mech '74; MBA Harvard), Suresh Mustapha (BSc Genetics '91; MBA Harvard) and Robert Samek (BSc Chem '81; MBA Stanford) are participating in the exercise. President Rod Fraser said some of the issues they'll be looking at are housing, time taken for applications and admissions, scholarships and air travel and tuition levels. There's a perception that the relatively low costs of a U of A education are not consistent with a high-quality education, given international tuition fees at UBC are almost double and more in the U.S. The plan also calls for senior undergraduate courses designed and developed to have student teams from Alberta, Canada and other parts of the world

analyze a major problem. The strategy will focus on students in the top 10 to 15th percentile in their home countries, initially targeting Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and what this institution can do to attract them.

SU UPDATE: STUDENTS WANT MORE REPRESENTATION ON BOARD

The Students' Union is working on two major proposals: tightening loopholes in the tuition cap policy; and increasing student representation on university boards. "If the university increases tuition costs, we should have more say," said Sheamus Murphy, SU president.

Meanwhile, student representatives are working with their counterparts at the University of Calgary, and Lethbridge, to meet with MLAs and talk about the state of post-secondary education. While these meetings are primarily with backbenchers, Murphy said student presidents from colleges and universities around the province have also secured a meeting with Premier Ralph Klein.

Murphy thanked the vice-president academic's office and the registrar for its efforts involved in first-year orientation. More than 3,800 new students participated, an increase of 400 over last year's count. The SU president also applauded the U of A's contribution to the Alberta Opportunity Bursary—\$2.5 million—in a pool of about \$4 million to help students in need.

GRAD STUDENT UPDATE

GSA leader, Kim Speers, says a grad orientation attracted about 250 students. The GSA is still looking for a graduate place on campus, a permanent ombudsman, and trying to organize a lobby effort. In addition, a referendum is planned for a health plan to supplement the dental plan currently in place. The graduate Wall of Recognition is still in preparation. ■

Environmental Research and Studies Centre Seminar Series

CLIMATE CHANGE: UNDERSTANDING THE ISSUES

Beginning September 24, 1998

ALL SEMINARS BEGIN AT 4:30 P.M.

STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING - ALUMNI ROOM

Thurs, Sept 24	Dr David Schindler Dept Biological Sciences	Effects of climate warming on Canadian and world lakes and rivers.
Wed, Sept 30	Dr Rick Hyndman Faculty of Business	Greenhouse gas emission trading: loopholes for industry or reducing GHGs efficiently?
Wed, Oct 7	Dr Kelman Wieder Dept Biological Sciences	Carbon Cycling, Peat & Globally Changing Climate: Good News, Bad News or No News?
Wed, Oct 14	Dr Andrew Bush Dept Earth & Atmospheric Sciences	Climate change: what we can learn from the study of the past.
Wed, Oct 28	Dr. Ian Campbell Canadian Forest Service	Fire, Trees and Climate Change: questions from the mud.
Wed, Nov 4	Dr. Martin Sharp Dept Earth & Atmospheric Sciences	Terrestrial ice and its role in global climate change.
Wed, Nov 18	Dr Michael Apps Canadian Forest Service	Carbon Storage in Boreal Forests: Ageless, Timeless or Transitory? Can human activities make a difference?



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Dean Claudette Tardif leads Faculté supporters in a cheer

Historic residence saved from the wrecking ball

By Geoff McMaster

The historic Faculté Saint-Jean residence was given another reprieve from the wrecking ball this month. A \$500,000 Canadian Heritage grant and the launch of an alumni fund-raising campaign have breathed new life into the threatened landmark. The Faculté is planning to extensively renovate the residence and add a new annex.

Federal justice minister Anne McLellan, who recalled once taking a summer course at the Faculté, was on hand Sept. 10 to present a cheque from the federal government. This donation will cover the planning phase of the project, says development officer Roger Lincourt. The alumni campaign will hopefully raise another \$300,000. While the university has raised an additional \$1.75 million, it will take about \$7 million in total to complete construction and accommodate a burgeoning student population.

The residence, built in 1911, is one of the oldest buildings on campus. Because its mechanical systems had seriously deteriorated, the university was considering closing it. It will now build a new residence, and use the old building as a conference and research centre.

"It is the pride of Faculté Saint-Jean and one of the jewels of the University of Alberta."

Roger Lincourt

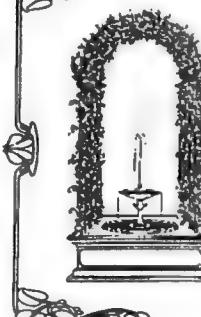
Alberta," says Lincourt. He says the building is an important cultural symbol for the francophone community in Alberta.

The new residence centre will include facilities for classrooms and research activities. It will accommodate 80 students in a French-immersion environment and will house conference rooms for French language study programs and professional development institutes. The centre will also include a small museum to illustrate the history of the Faculté and the Alberta francophone community.

Without the new residence centre, says Lincourt, "two years from now it will be impossible to accommodate students for security reasons ... it has to be [completed] by the year 2,000. We cannot wait five or ten years."

The Faculté Saint-Jean is the only degree-granting French language post-secondary institution west of Winnipeg. ■

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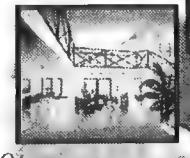
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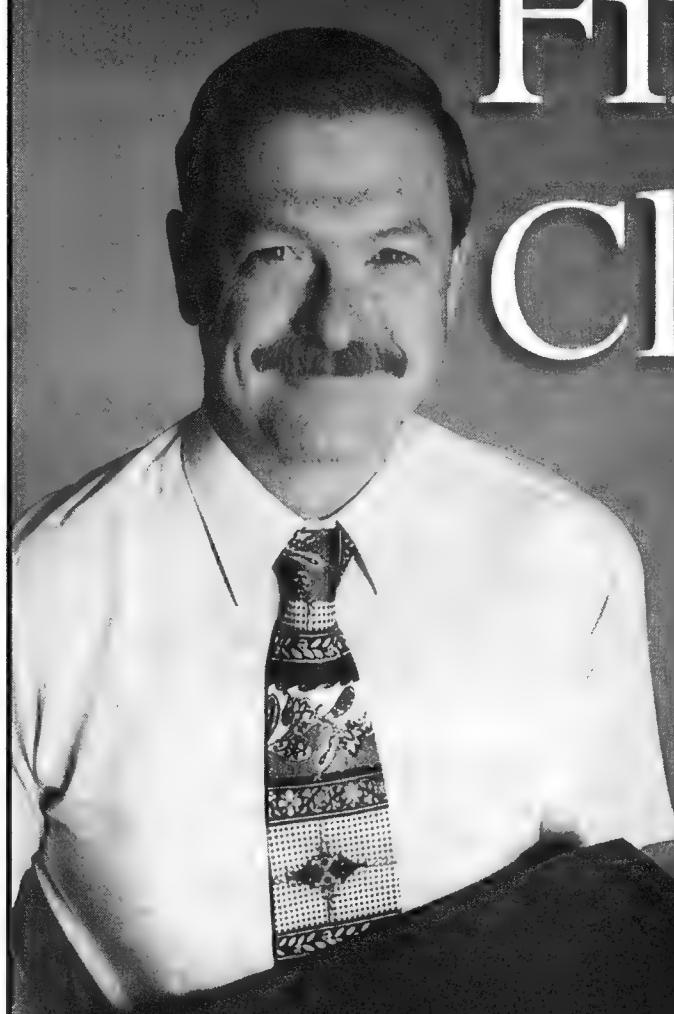


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talks

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ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

September 18, 2:00 pm

Roger Simnett, New South Wales, "Rotation of Audit Partners and Relationship with Audit Quality." B-05 Business Building. Copies of the paper can be picked up from 3-20L Business Building.

ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

September 25, 2:00 pm

Stephen Winans, Cornell University, "Quorum Sensing During Plant Colonization by Agrobacterium tumefaciens." Presented by the Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology. 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

ART & DESIGN

September 24, 5:00 pm

Ellen Dissanayake, "Setting the Scene: The Relevance of Biology to the Arts." 2-115 Education North.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

September 18, noon

Nusha Keyghobadi, "Effects of landscape structure on population genetics of an alpine butterfly." M-229 Biological Sciences Building.

September 18, 3:30 pm

Mark Glover, "Structural insights into the assembly of the Fos-Jun-NFAT transcription factor complex bound to a T-Cell specific enhancer." G-116 Biological Sciences Building.

September 23, noon

Larry Fliegal, "The yeast Na+/H+ exchange - SOD2." B-105 Biological Sciences Building.

September 24, 3:30 pm

Hans Lambers, Utrecht University/University of Western Australia "Physiological Mechanisms and Ecological Consequences of Variation in Relative Growth Rate Among Herbaceous Plants." 3-27 Earth Sciences Building.

September 29, 3:30 pm

Dixie Mager, Department of Medical Genetics, Terry Fox Laboratories, UBC, "Human Endogenous Retroviruses." G-116 Biological Sciences Building.

September 30, noon

Peter Constabel, "Molecular biology of anti-herbivore defense in trees: poplars, pests, and polyphenol oxidase." B-105 Biological Sciences Building.

CHEMICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING

September 18, 2:00 pm

Daolun Chen, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, The University of Manitoba, "Microstructure-Mechanical Property Relationship in an Aerospace Alloy With or Without Weld Thermal Simulation." 340 Chemical & Materials Engineering Building.

September 24, 3:30 pm

Dayadeep Mondal, "Incorporation of Parametric Uncertainty into the Gasoline Blending Control Problem" 344 Chemical & Materials Engineering Building.

September 29, 11:00 am

Weixing Chen, Nova Research and Technology Corporation, Nova Chemicals Ltd., "Grain Boundary Segregation of Boron and Its Effect on Heat-Affected Zone Microfissuring in EB Welded Wrought Inconel 718" 342 Chemical & Materials Engineering Building.

October 1, 3:30 pm

Zhoulin Yan, "Interfacial Behaviour of De-asphalted Bitumen" 344 Chemical & Materials Engineering Building.

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notices

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FACULTY OF ARTS, CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Faculty of Arts wishes to announce that chair selection committees have been established for the following departments: anthropology; comparative literature; religion and film/media studies; modern languages and cultural studies; Germanic, romance, Slavic philosophy, psychology and sociology. The committees invite nominations for the position of chair in each of these departments as well as comments from members of the university community. These should be addressed to Dr. Patricia Clements, dean of arts, 6-33 Humanities.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The University of Alberta Library is having a book sale October 7 and 8, 1998 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., lower floor, Cameron Library.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN MEET

The fall reception of the Canadian Federation of University Women (Edmonton) will be held Monday, September 21, 1998 at 7 p.m. at the U of A Faculty Club, 11435 Saskatchewan Drive. Guest speaker will be U of A Chancellor Lois Hole, who will discuss her expectations of her new role. Membership renewal and a showcase of interest groups will follow. All women university graduates are welcome.

FACULTY CURLING LEAGUE

Players of all skill levels (novice to expert) are welcome to join the Faculty Curling League starting October 19, 1998 and meeting 4:55 p.m. Mondays for eight-end games at the Jasper Place Curling Club, 16521-107 Ave, Edmonton. Cost is \$145 for the 20-game season. Call Terry Fenton, 961-2568.

ELECTION DAY OFFICIALS TRAINING

The U of A Government Studies Program is holding training sessions for Election Day workers this fall. The sessions, which are supported by Alberta Municipal Affairs, will be held throughout the province in preparation for the 1998 municipal election. They will be offered at the following locations from 1 to 4:30 p.m.:

Leduc, Sept. 16; High River, Sept. 23; Brooks, Sept. 25; Lacombe, Sept. 30; Edson, Oct. 2; Lac La Biche, Oct. 6; Barhead, Oct. 13; Fairview, Oct. 15; Airdrie, Oct. 22; Fort McLeod, Sept. 24; Drumheller, Sept. 26; Drayton Valley, Oct. 1; St. Paul, Oct. 5; Vermilion, Oct. 9 (12:30 to 4 p.m.); and High Prairie, Oct. 14.

EFF—DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FUND

Application deadline

The deadline for receipt of applications to the Endowment Fund for the Future—Distinguished Visitors Fund is September 30, 1998. Ranked proposals are forwarded through deans, whose deadlines will be earlier.

The EFF—Distinguished Visitors Fund is available to support visits by individuals who are widely recognized, who have achieved a high level of distinction in their fields, and whose presence on this campus is likely to have a significant impact.

Application forms and information can be obtained from your dean's office, or from the Office of the Associate Vice-President (Academic), 492-2280.

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The Students' Union congratulates the recipients of the **Students' Union Award for Leadership in Undergraduate Teaching**

The SALUTE award was developed by Students' Council to promote and encourage excellence in teaching by recognizing faculty members who demonstrate outstanding contributions in their roles as undergraduate instructors at the University of Alberta.

The 1997/98 recipients are:

Dr Peter Blenis

Peter Blenis is a Professor of Forest Pathology in the Department of Renewable Resources. He received his bachelors degree in Forest Biology from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, NY and his Masters and PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Wisconsin. He has taught Forest Pathology courses since 1982 and has been involved in the teaching of several other courses in Forestry and Plant Pathology. In the last few years, he has developed an interest in quantitative methods and currently is the instructor and constructor of courses in natural resources measurements and biometry, respectively.

Dr Bruce Stovel

Bruce Stovel is a Professor of English at the U of A. He received his B.A. from Concordia University in Montreal, his MA from the University of Cambridge, and his PhD from Harvard University. Before coming to this university in 1985, he taught for five years at Yale University and ten years at Dalhousie University. He is a specialist in the novels of Jane Austen. Together with his son, he hosts "Let the Good Times Roll," a program of old-time rhythm and blues music heard every Tuesday night from 8 to 9 pm on CJSR.

events

MUSIC

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

September 19, 10 a.m.
Masterclass with organist David Higgs. Convocation Hall, Arts Building.

September 19, 8 p.m.
Nicholas Arthur Kilburn Memorial Concert featuring one of America's leading concert organists David Higgs, a member of the Faculty of the Eastman School of Music. Admission: \$10/adult, \$5/student/senior. Convocation Hall, Arts Building.

CD RELEASE

October 4, 7:30 p.m.
Informal reception and program to mark the CD release of *Harlan Green in his field*. The evening, with Master of Ceremonies Colin MacLean, will include Ben Tobiason, guitar, Sheela na Gigh, Celtic; George Andrix, blues viola; Amelia Kaminsky, country Celtic; and the Alberta College flute choir. Special guests include Lois Hole and Alex Mair. There is no charge for admission. Old Timer's Cabin, 9430 Scona Road.

DRAMA

STUDIO THEATRE

October 1 - 10, 1998
John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* by Frank Galati, directed by MFA Directing Candidate, Kevin Sutley. Tickets & information: 492-2495. Timms Centre for the Arts.

ALUMNI

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

September 25, 5 to 7 p.m.
Celebration of Learning reception with guest speaker Chancellor Lois Hole. Grandin Theatres, 22 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue. No charge.

EXHIBITIONS

SNAP GALLERY, 10137-104 STREET

September 3-26
An exhibition of Ex Libris by contemporary Ukrainian printmakers. Gallery hours: Tues-to Fri. 10 to 8, Sat. 11 to 6.

FINE ARTS GALLERY (FAB)

September 8-27
The Poetic Structure of the World, an exhibition of the works of Lynd Osborne, dedicated to the memory of Bill Emes. 1-1 Fine Arts Building.

PRINT STUDY CENTRE (3-78 FAB)

September 8-24
Penumbrae, an exhibition of two portfolios completed by distinguished visiting artist, Ryoji Ikeda, during his residence in the Printmaking Division of the Department of Art & Design. Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 to noon & 1 to 4, Fri noon to 4.

DEVONIAN BOTANIC GARDEN

September 26 & 27
Autumn Flower Fair presented by the Devonian Botanic Garden Crafters' Assoc. Free Admission. Hours: 11 to 4. Call 987-3054 for information.

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Legacy - the work of twelve major Alberta artists in the University of Alberta Hospital Permanent Collection: Derek Besant, Illingworth Kerr, Bill Laing, Francine Gravel, Janet Mitchell, Richard Yates, John Snow, Harry Savage, Doug Haynes, Helen Mackie, Grant Leier and Manwoman. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 to 4, Sat & Sun 1 to 4 pm, Tues Wed & Thurs 5 to 8 pm (subject to availability of volunteers). Information: 492-8428 or 492-4211. Walter C MacKenzie Health Sciences Centre.

ENGLISH

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

September 21, 4:00 pm
Poetry Reading by Canadian poet, John Barton, 4-29 Humanities Centre.

positions

The University of Alberta is committed to the principle of equity in employment. As an employer we welcome diversity in the workplace and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities. In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

APO POSITION IN THE UNIVERSITY SECRETARIAT

The University Secretariat invites applications for an administrative officer position. The duties of this position have been designed so that, initially, the successful applicant would learn basic operating procedures related to the university's system of academic governance by training with senior staff in the University Secretariat in such areas as writing minutes, drafting legislation, and analyzing faculties' course and program proposals. Subsequent training would then include work with a variety of committees of General Faculties Council covering a broad range of areas: nominating processes, adjudication of teaching awards, and university budget processes. The person in this position will also provide support for the GFC Campus Law Review Committee.

Applicants should have an undergraduate degree and the ability to discern the views, opinions, objectives and desires of a diverse group of constituents represented on General Faculties Council. Excellent listening and oral communication skills are essential, as is the ability to think and write clearly.

The person in this position reports to the director of the University Secretariat and will work with a small team of other staff in the University Secretariat in an environment that is collegial, open and consultative.

Continued on next page

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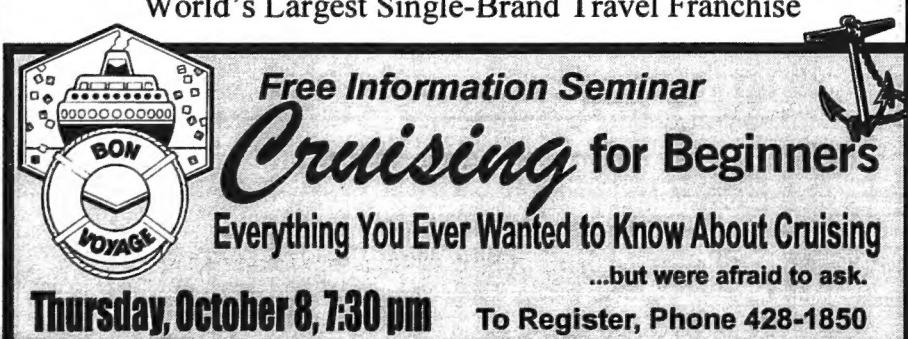
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This is a one-year term position with a possibility of renewal or conversion to a continuing administrative/professional officer (APO) position as assistant secretary to General Faculties Council. The initial salary for this position is \$34,000 to \$36,000 per annum commensurate with education and experience. The start date is December 1, 1998.

A résumé, samples of written work and the names of at least three references should be submitted by Monday, October 26, 1998 to

Ms Ellen Schoeck
Director, University Secretariat

Applicants selected for interview will be provided with a written case study and will be asked to correct, critique and summarize the material provided within a set time.

NOTE: To start, the incumbent would be involved with C/P, UASC, CLRC, Library Committee, GFC membership, GFC and executive minutes and agenda preparation, NC assistance and would serve as assistant secretary to General Faculties Council.

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

The Faculty of Education, University of Alberta, invites applications and nominations for a tenured position as chair, Department of Elementary Education. Located in one of the largest faculties of education in Canada, the department contributes to the pre-service education of approximately 1,500 undergraduate students in the elementary education program. The department offers master's and doctoral programs to approximately 140 full-time and part-time graduate students in the areas of early childhood education, curriculum and instructional studies, school libraries, teacher education and elementary subject areas such as art, mathematics, social studies, language arts, physical education, science and music. Its programs are taught by 25 tenured faculty as well as sessional lecturers.

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The appointment will normally be for a five-year term, commencing July 1, 1999. Salary will be commensurate with experience. The application deadline is February 15, 1999. Applicants should submit a current curriculum vita, statement of research interests, and example of recently published work, and the names of three referees to

Dr Larry Beauchamp
Dean, Faculty of Education
University of Alberta
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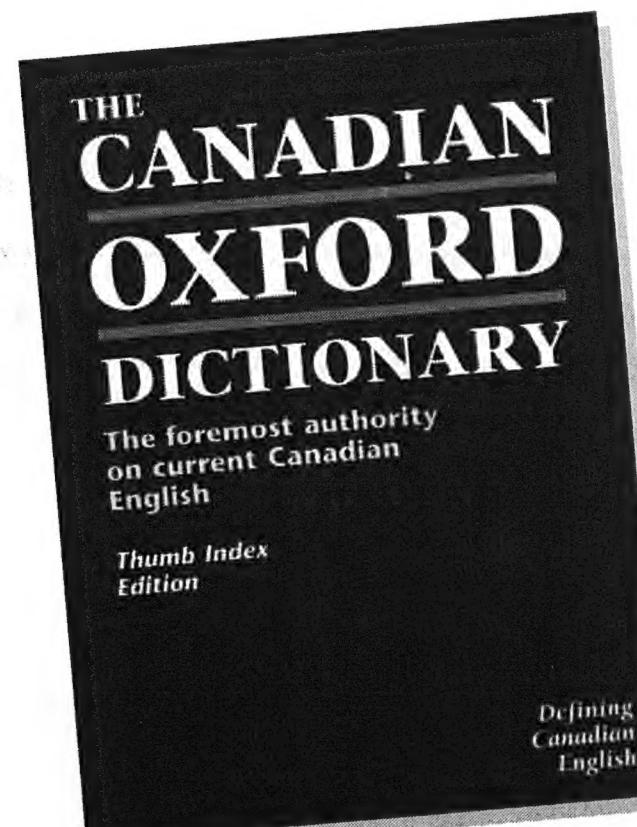
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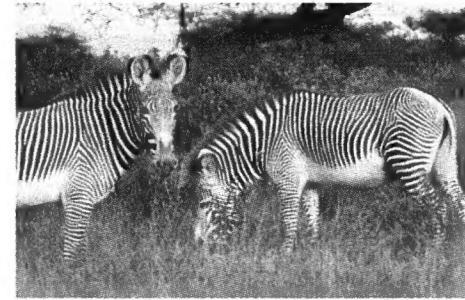
I crawled between the sheets of a real bed earlier tonight resigned to the fact that my safari travel in tent camps was ended for at least this trip to East Africa. The distant growl of traffic and other city sounds contrasted with nights over the past few weeks, when crickets, birds and monkeys made a continuous din of chirps, hoots and howls. Lions roared in the distance and hippos snorted and rumbled in the lake nearby. In contrast, elephants padded by on silent feet, leaving only trampled and muddy grass for us to see in the morning.

Tonight, I think back to my first visit to Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as a university student under the auspices of the 1964 Operation Crossroads Africa program. This was a career-changing experience. I immediately moved to specialize in the field of ecology. Then in the 1980s I returned to Uganda to train graduate students in the field of conservation and national park management. Bullets started to fly, so our research program waned, but my interest in Africa did not. I returned in 1997.

Each morning as the sun jump-started the day (sunrise takes only a few minutes at the equator), the bird lovers were already peering through binoculars. The portable generator would sputter to life, signaling time to roll out from under my mosquito net, wash quickly and jump into the mini vans for a one-hour safari through a national park or reserve.

One day we looked forward to seeing millions of flamingoes. The next day large mammal grazers and predators were the attraction. Helmeted guinea-fowl and sandgrouse scattered from the roadway, and eagles, superb starlings and weavers were active in the acacia trees. We would return to our camp, eat breakfast and then

Dateline: February 19, 1998—Nairobi, Kenya



Grevy's Zebra. Wildlife viewing is a major tourist attraction and Wildlife Conservation is one of our courses.

move to the lecture tents for classes.

We had 60 university students and a dozen professors from Newfoundland to British Columbia, brought together for a semester called "Study in Africa," a program initiated by Langara College, B.C. in 1992. There are three priorities: safety and health first, academic quality second and African experience third.

The students were keen. They looked out their tent doors to see textbook examples of volcanic landscapes. The mammals and birds were never silent. Stink bugs really did

have bad odors. The equatorial sun on our faces and an acacia thorn reaching through our sandals focused our feelings. Even our sixth sense told us a lion was crawling toward us through the bushes as we stopped for a toilet break on a remote road!

We had landed in Nairobi expecting the dry season but were quickly introduced to the results of weeks of unseasonable, heavy rainstorms. Rain brought insects; at dusk the bugs were too close even for the entomologists, as beetles swirled around the electric lights, got squashed in textbooks and backstroked through our soup. Original travel schedules went out the window because bridges were destroyed, gravel roads were rutted and blocked with semi trailer trucks buried to the flat bed; communication lines were disrupted or ruined so

that we could not communicate with our families in Canada.

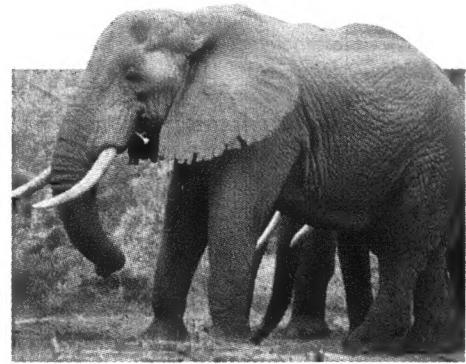
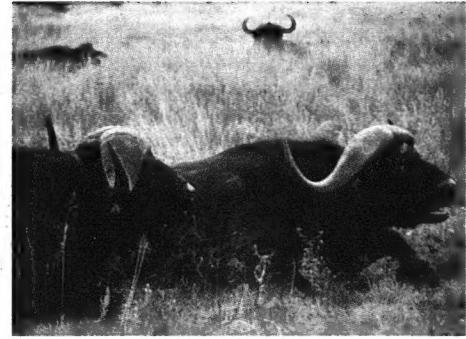
The land was green rather than red from dust. The savanna had tall grass and trees in full leaf; the animals had scattered far and wide because every depression held the liquid that is normally so precious. Crops were growing in fields that should have been fallow

until the long rains.

As we traveled northwest from Nairobi into the Highlands, we passed shambas (small farms) owned by Kikuyu people, where corn, beans and sweet potatoes were mixed with bananas, papaya, and sugar cane. Descending into the great Rift Valley (one of the birth places of humans) near Lake Naivasha, we found obsidian chips that were used as cutting tools by Stone Age Peoples about 20,000 years ago. Hell's Gate National Park lived up to its name as temperatures gently baked us on our hikes.

Our next camp was northward and near Lake Bogoria with its 2.4 million flamingoes. New archaeological finds were made; hot springs and geysers led to discussions of volcanism; community development projects and traditional cultures of the Tugen people were contrasted.

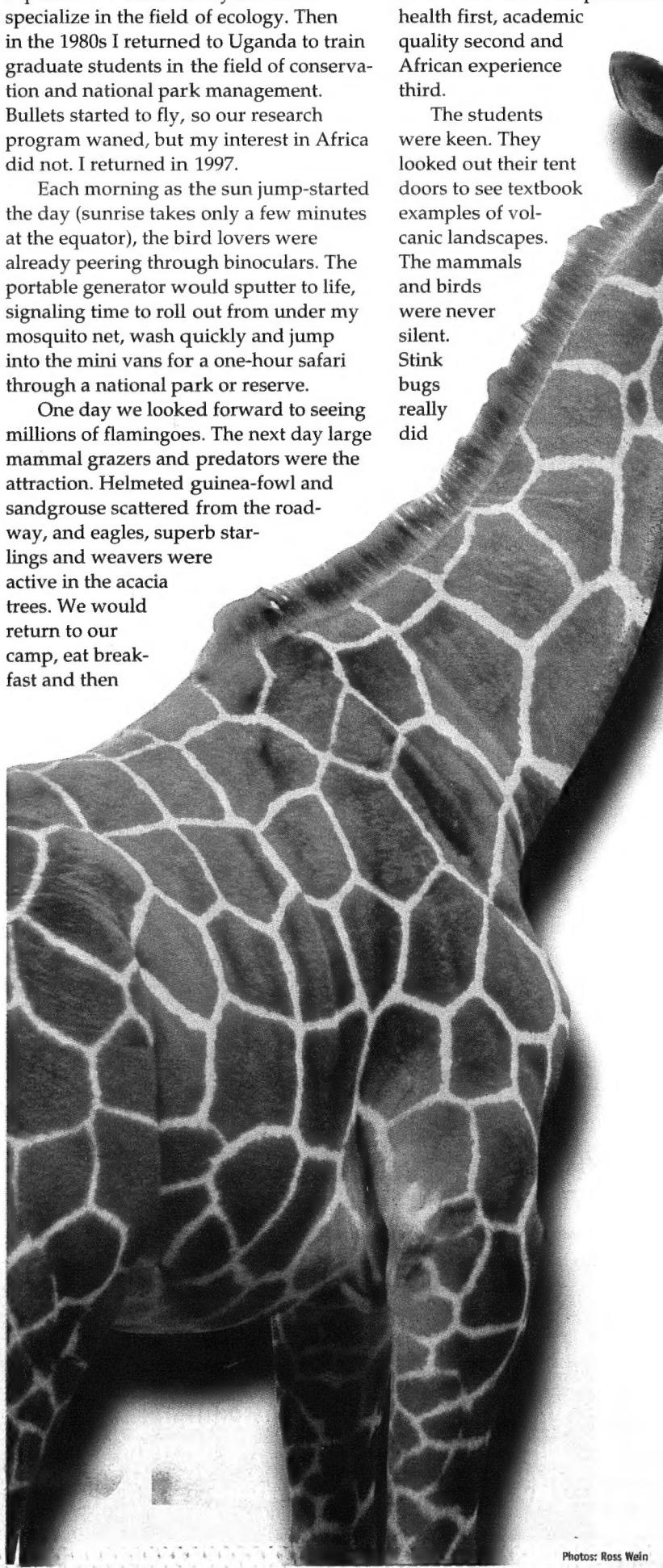
Traveling northward, we climbed into Highlands and set up camp in Mount Elgon National Park where elephants



Maasai women showing us their boma and homes. Understanding local cultures is a high priority within anthropology and archaeology courses.

glided silently past the camp in the morning mist, possibly on their way to the elephant caves where they use their tusks to dislodge rock, which they chew for minerals.

We competed to find the first cheetah and leopard because we heard them at night. Small, scattered groups of Grevy's zebra, warthogs, beisa oryx, impala, Grant's gazelle and waterbuck would glance up and then resume feeding. Somali ostrich and Kori bustard marched through the tall grass. For the conservation biologist, this was utopia! ■



folio back page

This is an excerpt of a story that first appeared in the Guelph Alumnus. For more information, visit the "Study in Africa" website: <http://www.langara.bc.ca/africa>. The U of A International Centre will showcase study abroad opportunities Wednesday September 23, 10 am to 4 pm at SUB.